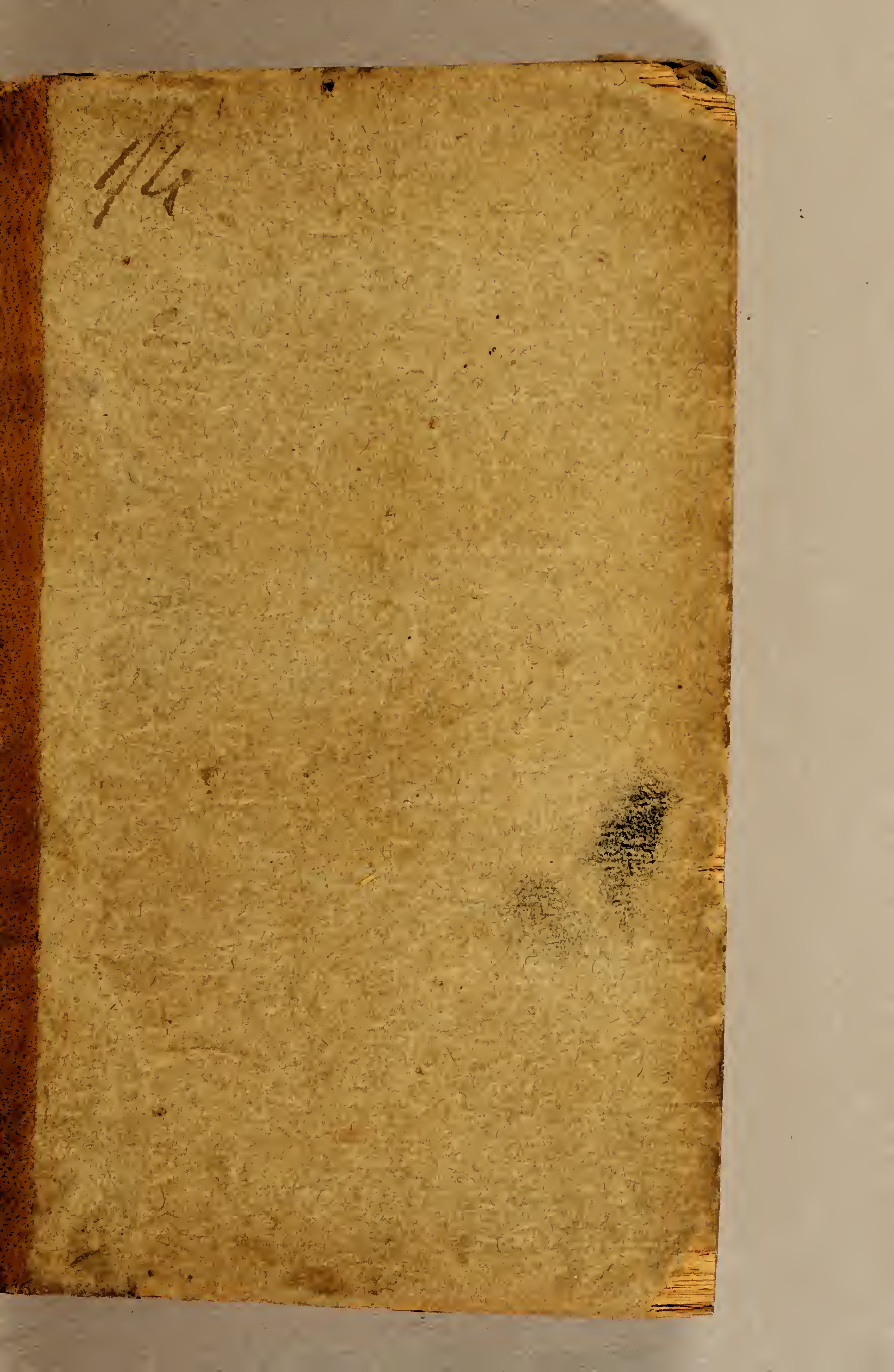




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MEMOIRS

OF

MARIE ANTOINETTE,

CI-DEVANT

QUEEN OF FRANCE.

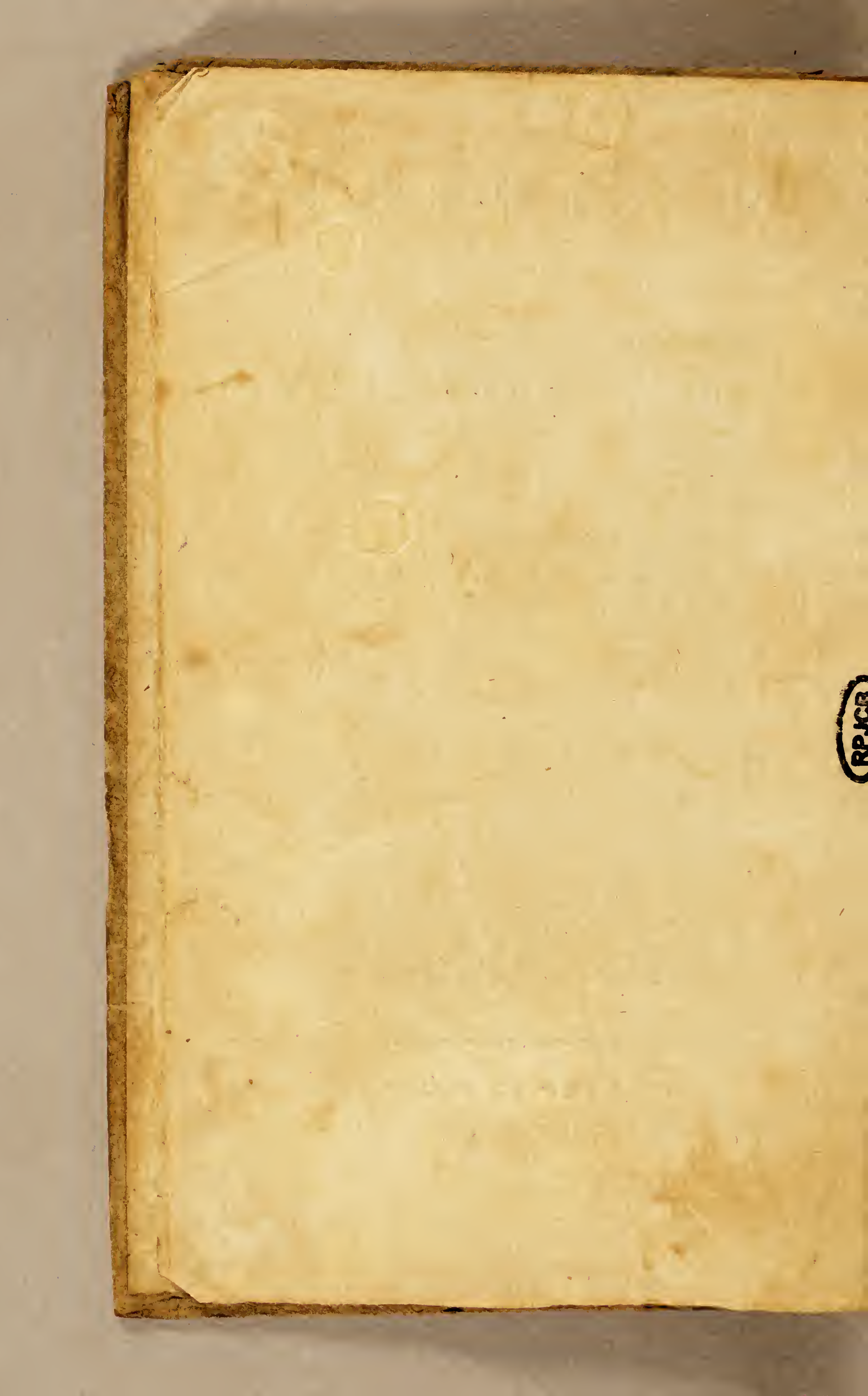
Il n'y a rien pouſſe tant à la vertù, que l'horreur et l'abhorrement du vice.
BRANTOME.



PRINTED IN *PARIS.*

TRANSLATED and RE-PRINTED in the UNITED STATES,

1794.





CONTENTS.

TRANSLATOR's

TRANSLATOR's PREFACE.



BIOGRAPHY usually presents to view something to copy, and something to shun. In the lives of eminent persons we sometimes find great virtues allied to great vices; but the latter generally outweigh the former. The most exemplary demonstrate the error of believing infallibility an attribute of human greatness. None have been uniformly good, and, for the honour of human nature, we wish it could be said, none have been uniformly bad. The History of MARIE ANTOINETTE *can be little else than an enumeration of licentious excesses and unprecedented crimes. Such was the depraved morals of this extraordinary woman, that her warmest panegyrists have scarce pointed out in her character, a single virtue to snatch her memory from unmingled detestation. From the pencil, therefore, of the impartial biographer, the reader must not expect to find depicted in this work, the congregated virtues, smiling like descending cherubs; but a groupe of monstrous intrigues and gigantic vices, which must excite astonishment and horror.*

Those who are of opinion that exalted rank should be a sacred protection from the profane language of truth, may affect to revolt from what they will style the indecency of this publication. But the man of independent spirit, the philosopher, and the true republican, sees through the medium of reason, with eyes undazzled by the glare of royalty, and rejoices when vice, though allied to greatness, is detected and exposed.

It may also be alleged that when the guilty have expiated their crimes by death, it is cruel and unjust to punish their memories

memories with infamy. This sentiment, however amiable it may appear, is not strictly just. It is the province of Biography to shew mankind what others have been, that they may learn what themselves ought to be. It paints the beauty of chastity, and the deformity of lubricity. It holds up virtue to allure, and vice to deter; the good to be imitated, and the bad to be detested. The buoy which warns the mariner to avoid the rock of danger, is not less useful than the beacon which conducts him to the channel of safety.

The celebrated heroine of the following pages has lately expired on a scaffold, the victim of an injured nation's just resentment. That amiable propensity of the human breast, which, on such occasions, inclines mankind to feel before they reason, has been attacked, in the critical moment, by every enemy of the French republic and the RIGHTS OF MAN, *with a design to throw an odium on the French nation and the cause of liberty. The judges of Marie Antoinette have been calumniated, as murderers and regicides; and she has been pathetically represented as innocence suffering martyrdom by the sword of audacious injustice and unrelenting cruelty. The atrocity of her crimes has been caused insensibly to disappear from the eye which contemplated the severity of her punishment; and the voice of reason has been drowned in the sobbing of pity. It will, however, appear, from a perusal of this work, that the death of Marie Antoinette was not inflicted by the sanguinary hand of wanton barbarity, but by the sentence of justice, temperate, lenient justice, which long protracted the exaction of a forfeited life.*

To make the knowledge of this fact accessible to all; to wipe away the dust which has been thrown in the public eye; and to render ineffectual some of the vile artifices which are insidiously practised among us, in order to alienate our affections from regenerated France, a nation equally virtuous and brave; for these purposes this publication makes its appearance. We are aware of the malicious strictures it will be compelled to undergo, and we can also divine from what quarter they will originate. But we have declared the motives by which we are influenced; and shall rest satisfied in the conscious rectitude of our intentions.

March, 1794.

MEMOIRS



MEMOIRS

OF THE

QUEEN OF FRANCE.

CHAPTER I.

THAT warmth of temperament, which afterwards led Marie to an almoſt unequalled extreme of libidinous exceſſes, began very early to diſplay itſelf. At an age when moſt children are ſtrangers to ſexual ſenſations, and all are ignorant of their cauſe and tendency, Antoinette had become acquainted with the myſteries of love. Before ten years had revolved over her head, ſhe was often ſurprized in giving practical leſſons to her ſiſters, and in many other acts of juvenile wantonneſs.

We cannot pretend to ſay with certainty on whom ſhe deigned to beſtow the enjoyment of her virgin charms. Her firſt amours were probably conducted with a circumſpection which may have eluded diſcovery. It is, however, well known, that, at the age of fourteen, beauty was not thought the only circumſtance in which ſhe bore a reſemblance to the goddeſs of love. Variety, even then, was talked of in the German court, as pleaſing to Antoinette, and it was generally ſuppoſed not to have been wanting to her enjoyments.

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What was ſuſpected in Germany, was, afterwards, when ſhe reſided in France, fully eſtabliſhed as a fact. Succeſſively angered by what they conſidered an unmerited diſmiſſion, or proud of having been encircled in the arms of royalty, the favourites of Antoinette, from time to time, gratified their reſentment or their vanity, by diſcovering their connexion with her.

The cardinal de Rohan was at this time ambaſſador at the court of Vienna. He became enamoured with the charms of Antoinette. Unprincipled in his morals, herculean and handſome in his perſon, he dared to love, and he dared to hope. He improved the firſt opportunity of declaring his paſſion, and met with a reception, of which he had no great reaſon to complain. He was gently chidden for his preſumption, and forbidden in the moſt *unforbidding* manner to perſiſt; while the artful glances of her eyes contradicted every word that fell from her lips. This interview, as might be expected, added new heat to the ardent wiſhes of this illuſtrious hypocrite. A flame was now kindled in his boſom, which burnt till it produced his deſtruction. He now uſed every artifice of which he was maſter, to bring his deſign on her to a conſummation. But all his exertions proved ineffectual; and he returned to France in diſappointment, and almoſt in deſpair.

His want of ſucceſs, at this time, was chiefly owing to a previous engagement on the part of Antoinette. A young German officer, with whom ſhe accidentally became acquainted, being poſſeſſed of a perſon with which ſhe was delighted, read his good fortune in her eyes, and inſtantly made ſome tender advances, which were received in the kindeſt manner. From this moment, a voluptuous intercourſe commenced between this happy couple, that exiſted for a length of time, far exceeding the duration of her ſubſequent amours. It was, however, at laſt broken off by her departure for France; but ſhe ſeemed, through life, to entertain an increaſing fondneſs for the delightful tactics, in which ſhe had been inſtructed by this military Adonis.

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It was ſoon after the connexion between Antoinette and this officer was formed, that the cardinal made his declaration to her. We need not be ſurprized at the mildneſs of the anſwer he received: it was ſuch as might be expected from ſuch a woman. She was ſeldom diſpleaſed by ſolicitations of this kind; and, poſſeſſed of too much humanity to exerciſe the cruelty of repulſion, even when ſhe did not grant, ſhe hardly denied.

CHAPTER II.

IT is unneceſſary here to detail the circumſtances which led to an union of the houſes of Auſtria and Bourbon, by the marriage of Marie Antoinette with the dauphin, ſince Louis XVI. king of France. This pretended reconciliation was inſincere on the Auſtrian ſide. When Antoinette was about to depart from Vienna for France, ſhe entered into a league with her brother, Joſeph II. emperor of Germany, againſt the liberty, property, and even the exiſtence of the people of France, ſolemnly ſwearing to accompliſh, if poſſible, the deſtruction of that nation, which ſhe ſtill viewed with the antipathy of a natural enemy. And to this horrid engagement ſhe proved faithful, as the ſequel of theſe memoirs will evince.

On her leaving Vienna, her mother, the great Maria Thereſa, is ſaid to have been tranſported with joy at the idea of the evils impending over France, in being ſubjected to a queen like Antoinette. Anticipating that ruin, which ſhe doubted neither the inclination nor the ability of her daughter to effect, ſhe exclaimed, "Now "am I revenged on France!"

Marie Antoinette arrived in France in the year 1768. She was then in her ſeventeenth year. Her beauty, at all times incomparable, was now at its acmè. By the plenitude of her health, and the vivacity of her deſires,

her cheeks were flushed into a bloom, that to the whiteness of a neck and bosom, which seemed animated alabaster, formed a contrast the most captivating. With her eyes she could do what she pleased; yet when left to themselves they beamed nothing but innocent frankness, angelic benevolence, and mild dignity. Her person, proportioned with the most striking symmetry, was tall and majestic. She might, in short, have been taken as a perfect model, for another Venus de Medicis. No one beheld her without admiration; and no one will read her history without detestation. Possessed of such charms, had she not wandered into every shameful excess, and committed every crime that could alienate affection, she had been adored by the people of France, who had long distinguished themselves by a blind attachment to their sovereigns.

Born for pleasures, and availing herself of that licentiousness of manners which reigned at court, Marie Antoinette, on her arrival, sacrificed nothing to etiquette. She entered alone, and whenever she judged proper, into the apartment of Louis XV. And under the pretext of shewing herself to a people, whom, she *said*, she loved, and whose affections she wished to obtain, she walked out ten times a day, without escort. Her first lady of honour, Madame de Noailles, presumed to represent to her the impropriety of such conduct. Her advice was, however, turned to ridicule, and procured her the nickname of *Madame Etiquette.*

Even the dauphin grew uneasy at that licentious gaiety, and contempt of decorum, which were now daily exhibited in the conduct of Antoinette. Happy had it been for France, if her conduct had excited in his breast that aversion which she merited. But possessed of every artifice of her sex, as well as all its charms, she knew how to captivate the most insensible; and she duped the heart of Louis into the most extravagant fondness, and inspired his bosom with the most implicit confidence.

Meanwhile, Madame, the cidevant countess of Provence, conceived the most inveterate hatred against Antoinette,

toinette. She beheld her beauty with all the pangs and all the malevolence of envy; and equally hurt by the fuperiority of her charms and her power, fhe fecretly determined on revenge.

The countefs d'Artois became alfo diffatisfied with Antoinette. The attentions which the hufband of the former lavifhed on the latter, were beheld with jealous apprehenfion. The countefs had indeed never been perfectly pleafed with his behaviour. From their earlieft connexion, fhe had found herfelf under the humiliating neceffity of fharing his favors with the vileft of her fex.

Antoinette and thefe two women, whofe difpofitions bore a near refemblance to her own, were ever meditating mifchiefs. Their hufbands were all equally pufillanimous. Monfieur, the vaineft and moft pedantic man in the kingdom, devoted all his moments to his favorite ftudies of literature. Deftitute of fenfibility, and a ftranger to every focial paffion, he feemed as incapable of feeling as the mouldy volumes, to pore over which was his only delight and employment. Philanthropic fpeculations, and the philofophy of humanity, had never gained admittance to his thoughts. The count d'Artois was continually plunged in the moft fhameful debaucheries, and ran with unflackening pace the round of exceffes, in daily diffipation and nocturnal riot. The temper of the dauphin was mild and phlegmatic; and his heart was fortunately incapable of acute fenfation. His genius early difcovered itfelf to be a mechanical one; and he always appeared to be happier in a forge than in a palace. While employed in the former, a lively fancy might have imagined him fabricating chains for the nation, which he was deftined to govern. He, however, difplayed lefs ingenuity in his attempts to fix them on his fubjects, than in manufacturing them.

Maurepas was at this time prefident of the council. Equally indifferent to all political events, he knew no folicitude except for his ftomach. He was the moft confirmed of epicures. Too carelefs for the miniftry, and, at the fame time, too amiable to be excluded from

ſociety ; while he neglected the former, he was the delight and the ſoul of the latter.

The count d'Artois, who poſſeſſed an handſome figure, and a countenance full of vivacity, now attracted the eyes of Marie Antoinette. The reputation which he had acquired among women, had excited, in her breaſt, a wiſh to know the validity of its foundation ; and ſhe determined to encourage the attentions which he paid her. She had alſo another motive for favouring the advances of the count. She had become ſolicitous to experience maternal feelings, which ſhe imagined muſt be delightful. She had alſo, on her departure from Germany, received an injunction from Maria Thereſa, to become, if poſſible, a mother. By her cohabitation with Louis, her fertility had not been rendered apparent. Whether this circumſtance was owing to impotence on his part, or to ſome phyſical contrariety of temperament, we are unable to determine. Be this as it may, ſhe conſidered d'Artois as the man, in the world, beſt adapted to the gratification of all her wiſhes.

The aſſiduities of the count were now increaſed, and they were received with the higheſt complacency. His attachment to the queen was now talked of as having become mutual, and gave origin to much ſcandal. Nor were the reports which were circulated on this occaſion confined to the court of France ; they even reached the ears of the empreſs ; and it may be well imagined that they ſuffered no diminution by tranſportation. She was not ſurpriſed at the crime, but ſhe was alarmed by the imprudence of her daughter. In order, however, to obtain more accurate information on this ſubject than could be derived from common fame, ſhe wrote to the cardinal de Rohan, requeſting him to give her an account of the conduct of Antoinette. The deſires which the latter formerly excited in his boſom, had yet ſuffered no abatement. He viewed the count d'Artois as a dangerous and ſucceſsful rival ; and, anxious to effect a diſſolution of his connexion with Antoinette, he wrote an anſwer to Thereſa, which rather magnified than palliated the fault of her daughter. Of this letter we inſert a copy.

"Madam,

"My zealous attachment to the illuftrious houfe of "Auftria; the veneration with which you have infpired "me; and the generous reception with which I was "honoured at your court, when I was fent thither by my "king; all thefe induce me to yield an obedience to "your commands which deeply wounds my heart. Ah, "why have you not charged fome other with the exe-"cution of this too painful commiffion!

"It is, alas! but too true, madam, that Antoinette, "fince her arrival in France, has forgotten all thofe lef-"fons of wifdom and virtue with which your parental "tendernefs was pleafed to enrich her at parting. My "duty obliges me to tell you the afflicting truth, that "fhe has become a finifhed coquette, and that fhe yields "herfelf almoft wholly up to exceffes. A report is con-"fidently circulated, that fhe prefers her brother-in-law "to her hufband. May God avert an event fo dread-"ful! Yet appearances, in this unhappy affair, but ill "agree with our virtuous wifhes.

"Thus have I given your majefty all the information "in my power. May it enable you to conduct her again "in the path of duty; and that my affectionate zeal "may have the felicity of co-operating with your ma-"jefty, is the moft ardent wifh of,

"Madam,
"Your very obedient,
"And moft refpectful humble fervant,
(Signed) "L. DE ROHAN."

This letter, being afterwards found among the papers of the emprefs, was fent to Antoinette by her brother. This gave additional force to that refentment which fhe had already conceived againft its author: and in order to render her vengeance complete, fhe folicited for him the moft eminent places, to make his fall the more humiliating.

CHAP.

CHAPTER III.

AS variety was ever the paſſion of Antoinette, her connexion with the court now ſuffered an interval, which was occupied by a new and more pleaſing object. The count Dillon, (often called the handſome Dillon) now returned to court, where he had formerly been a page. He now attracted every eye, and the queen was not the laſt on whom he had made an impreſſion. He was not permitted long to remain ignorant of the havock he had made in the heart of his ſovereign; nor was the conſummation of her ardent deſires long poſtponed.

Deſtitute of wit, and unamiable in his manners, count Dillon was recommended by nothing but beauty. Such is the portrait of the hero of the day. The inſinuating queen had, however, the art to make her unſuſpecting huſband the friend of this unprincipled and ungrateful villain. When he played, the king condeſcended to be his banker, and heaped on him many diſtinguiſhing favors. A glaring indiſcretion, however, between the lovers at length alarmed the king. The queen gave a ball, at which ſhe ſcarcely danced except with Dillon. At length, pretending fatigue, ſhe threw herſelf into a chair, and preſently after complained of a moſt intolerable palpitation of the heart. The count ran, in a fright, to her aſſiſtance; and, unconſcious of the preſence of the company, thruſt his hand into her boſom, the ſeat of the complaint. As inattentive as the count to the company which gathered round in mute aſtoniſhment at his temerity, the queen forgot to remove the welcome intruder. The king at laſt ſaid ſomething expreſſive of ſurpriſe and diſpleaſure, and Dillon retired. She, however, with an embrace, and a few tender words, appeaſed his indignation, and removed his ſuſpicions. Even Dillon himſelf was, by her artful management, ſoon reinſtated

ed in the favor and confidence of Louis. For ſome time ſubſequent to this reconciliation, the lovers lived in the happieſt and moſt ſecure familiarity.

But the time when Dillon was to return to his regiment at length arrived, and the lovers were forced to feel the pangs of ſeparation. In vain did Antoinette ſolicit a diſpenſation for the colonel, repreſenting to M. Mayenne how neceſſary this officer was in her balls and promenades. He was obliged to depart, but madame de Guémenée ſoon dried the tears of Antoinette ; and ſome *ladies of the camp* as quickly conſoled M. Dillon.

About this time happened the death of Louis XV. ſurnamed the Well-Beloved ; and the huſband of Antoinette ſucceeded to the throne of France, by the title of Louis XVI. Our heroine now found herſelf in poſſeſſion of that ſovereignty, for which ſhe had waited, from the firſt moment of her arrival in France, with the moſt impatient expectation. Regardleſs of decorum, ſhe made no effort to conceal the joy which ſhe felt at this event. The grateful tear of filial affection could not indeed have been expected to flow from the eyes of ſuch a woman ; but the *appearance*, at leaſt, of grief would have been aſſumed on this occaſion, had ſhe not loſt all reſpect for decency. But far from that, her balls and entertainments now became more gay, ſuperb and frequent. The circle of her pleaſures was enlarged, and ſhe daily plunged into new exceſſes. The unparallelled licence of her conduct excited the indignation of the virtuous, and it ſcandalized even the leaſt ſcrupulous. The princeſs de Marſan, and madame de Maurepas, preſumed to repreſent to Antoinette the impropriety of ſuch proceedings, and remonſtrated againſt them in ſtrong, though reſpectful terms. This, however, produced only ridicule and reſentment on the part of the queen.

CHAPTER IV.

IN 1775 the court went to Rheims, where the ceremony of the confecration of Louis XVI. was performed. Notwithftanding the low fituation of the finances, and the remonftrances of her hufband, who preached nothing but economy, Antoinette caufed the preparations for this journey to be of the moft expenfive kind. The moft magnificent equipages, with perfonal ornaments the moft fuperb and coftly, were provided by her direction. And as the public treafury was already too much exhaufted to anfwer thefe enormities of expence, fhe had recourfe to a number of ufurers, from whom very large fums were obtained, by promifes of moft extravagant gratuities from the public coffers, as foon as they fhould be filled by monies extorted from the nation.

The evening previous to their departure, Louis, with tears of tendernefs, pathetically exhorted Antoinette to a conduct which fhould contradict all that fcandal which had been circulated in confequence of her levities and mifconduct. Ever prompt to diffemble, fhe embraced him with pretended affection, and folemnly declared fhe would be guided by his counfel. Her language appeared to be that of truth and fweetnefs; but her perfidious heart was full of falfehood.

Behold our heroine now at Rheims, plunged into a fea of licentioufnefs. On her arrival at this place, fhe wholly feparated her court from that of the king's, and rendered it a pantheon of pleafure. Here prudifh modefty found no admiffion; decency and fobriety were confidered as impertinents, and the firft in merit was the firft in vice. Feats of gallantry were the fplendid achievements of thofe who were moft emulous of glory; and the bufinefs of all was intrigue. Here Antoinette, inftead of appearing like the auguft queen of an amiable nation,

nation, became a Venus, in real life, ſurrounded with her nymphs and votaries. Neither did ſhe forget that her huſband was a Vulcan, and as ſuch he was treated. The young duc de Coigny was choſen as her favorite Mars ; and, if we except the circumſtance of the net, the whole of this poetic fable, even to the nudity of the happy couple, was realized.

Such was the ſtate of Antoinette and her court, during her reſidence at Rheims. Even that tranſparent veil, which ſhe had carleſsly thrown over her adulterous amours at Verſailles, was now laid aſide ; and the conſtraint of ſecrecy was no longer conſidered as compatible with the dignity of royal wantonneſs. All regard for reputation, all apprehenſion of publicity was now diſmiſſed ; and even her looſeſt moments were ſcarce guarded from the general eye by the umbrage of privacy.

L'Iſle d'Amour, a ſmall but delightful iſland, ſituated in the river near Rheims, was the favorite ſcene of her anti-conjugal gambols. She indeed rendered it the reſidence of the deity whoſe name it bears, and fixed unequivocal propriety to its appellation. It became, in fact, another Cyprus ; and, as the preſiding power was preſent to regulate her ſacrifices, it may be well preſumed they were neither few nor ſmall.

On the evening of the ninth of June, 1775, Antoinette gave a moſt brilliant ſupper at this favorite Iſle. The king received a ſlight invitation to this nocturnal feaſt, but as ſhe wiſhed and expected, he refuſed to go. This infamous night was deſtined to voluptuous exceſſes, to which ſhe was apprehenſive his preſence might have given ſome conſtraint. From this banquet all ceremony and etiquette were baniſhed ; and every gueſt, of either ſex, followed the example of the queen, and drank like true Germans. Immediately after ſupper the attendants were diſmiſſed, and on a ſignal given by Antoinette, the lights were extinguiſhed. All now wandered at hazard in the adjacent grove, in order to give, as chance might happen to pair them, a promiſcuous conſummation to theſe bacchanalian orgies. Antoinette, who undoubt-

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edly ſhould be recorded by the faithful hiſtorian as the original inventor of this refined ſpecies of revelry, was not diſappointed of that pleaſure which ſhe expected to derive from the execution of this ingenious project. By an artful addreſs, ſhe now taſted all the raptures of that ſudden variety, the enjoyment of which ſhe had anticipated. The inexpreſſible tranſports of this night are known to have afforded her a ſource of delightful recollection, and to have long been the favorite topic of her confidential converſations.

The king, although he did not ſuſpect the infidelity of Antoinette, diſapproved theſe nocturnal riots. The next day he ſpoke of her conduct as light and improper; and ended his ſermon, ſo diſagreeable to her, by an expreſs interdiction of her viſits to the Iſle d'Amour. She complained of this tyranny, as ſhe termed it, of her royal ſpouſe; but the ſurly monarch was peremptory, and ſhe was obliged to yield obedience.

The pompous ceremony of conſecration being over, the court returned to Verſailles. The celebrated Montanſier, who was a manager of theatrical exhibitions in this city, being overwhelmed with debt, had at this time formed the plan of a fraudulent bankruptcy. This circumſtance being communicated to the queen, ſhe undertook to patronize this retailer of licentious pleaſure. She extricated her from the labyrinth in which ſhe was involved, by paying all her debts; and ſhe even extended her bounty ſo far as to enable la Montanſier to continue her buſineſs. The lewd and indecent plays which were introduced to the public by this manager, were happily calculated to pleaſe the taſte of Antoinette; ſhe became a conſtant attendant on them. She, on theſe occaſions, was uſually accompanied by her aſſiduous brother-in-law, the count d'Artois. The king beheld theſe irregularities with painful anxiety; and often beſought the queen, with tears in his eyes, to deſiſt from courſes of life ſo deſtructive to domeſtic felicity, and ſo productive of public infamy. Finding every remonſtrance ineffectual, he at length determined to enforce a reformation by different and more ſpirited means. One

One night Antoinette and d'Artois, returning from Trianon, as usual, at a very late hour, on presenting themselves at the gate of the castle, were refused admittance by the centinel. Enraged at this unexpected detention, the count had recourse to execrations and menaces, both of which proved equally ineffectual. The guard remained inflexible, alledging, in justification of his conduct, that he had received his orders from the king's own mouth, and it was his duty and determination to execute them. Antoinette then discovered herself, and in a transport of rage, demanded, "if he dared to oppose the passage of the queen?" The soldier answered, that orders had been given him indefinitely, and without exception, to suffer no person whatever to enter the palace by that gate after a certain hour; and those who should oppose his obedience to these orders, would do it at the peril of their lives. In fine, the illustrious couple were reduced to the necessity of returning to the theatre of Montansier, in order to avail themselves of a private passage leading from thence to the palace. They were obliged even to solicit a light from the soldiers in the salle-des-gardes. The next morning, Antoinette complained bitterly to the king, of the unprecedented rudeness with which she had been treated by the audacious centinel. The surly monarch, shrugging up his shoulders, replied, that he himself had given the guard his orders, not wishing his house to be disturbed by profligate revellers after he was in bed.

Antoinette sighed for revenge on the author of this mortifying and ridiculous adventure, and determined to avail herself of the surest means of procuring it, by persevering in her licentious excesses.

About this time the queen was declared to be pregnant; and this event gave birth to an infinite variety of opinions. The *wise ones* themselves knew not with certainty where the suspicion ought to be fixed; but most circumstances seem to have united to point out the duke de Coigny as a parental agent in this affair. Her pregnancy was dated from a time when she was known to have had an appointment

pointment with this *healthy* and *handſome* young nobleman. At a certain ball ſhe had been ſuddenly miſſed, and, as afterwards appeared, was about the ſame time ſeen to enter a retired apartment with him. The king, however, was the greateſt dupe. He indeed flattered himſelf that he was the father of the child, and congratulated himſelf with rapturous deluſion, on the expectation of the offspring which was haſtening to the world. The courtiers favoured the deception, and applauded the fond credulity of this father in imagination. The delivery of the queen, when it arrived, was ſlow, painful, and dangerous. Vermont her accoucheur, however, ſaved her life by a blood-letting, which he performed in contradiction to the opinion of other gentlemen of the faculty, who had been conſulted on this occaſion. Meantime her lovers, apprehenſive that in this ſtate of agony ſhe might make unfortunate diſcoveries, were filled with the utmoſt confuſion. The duke de Coigny particularly, ſhewed marks of the greateſt anxiety, and made, in his diſtreſs, a ſpectacle at once diverting and pitiable. The labor, however, at length ended happily; on which the king leaped about in extacy of joy, preſſing the hand of Vermont, and calling him his guardian angel. In imitation of the example of Henry IV. he exhibited the infant to the aſſembly, with an air of inexpreſſible ſatisfaction, and addreſſing himſelf to M. d' Algire, preſident of the parliament, exclaimed, "Behold this child, "my dear friend, and acknowledge in it the ſemblance "of its father!"

CHAPTER V.

WHEN the queen recovered from her illneſs, a different round of amuſements was introduced at Verſailles. This conſiſted of balls and promenades, particularly nocturnal ones. Every fine evening the court

court aſſembled on the terrace before the palace. Here perſons of all ranks were collected ; even the vileſt and loweſt women of Verſailles were not excluded. In theſe ſcenes of riot, the actors were generally in maſquerade. This ſpecies of diſguiſe, with the ſecurity of night, often veiled tranſactions which might well retire from the beams of day, and with which the hiſtorian declines to ſtain his page. The *gardes-françaiſes* were, on theſe occaſions, inſtructed to play airs, which being laſciviouſly tender, were happily calculated to influence the looſer paſſions. Biron, an officer in the gardes-du-corps, took particular pains to acquaint himſelf with what paſſed at theſe meetings, and he afterwards took equal pains to make it public. It would be tedious to relate the various adventures of Antoinette during this ſummer.

The next that we ſhall notice is her famous one with a clerk of the ſecretary at war. He was natural ſon to a certain counteſs, who, if any credit be due to fame, would have found it difficult to aſcertain his father. By her patronage he had obtained the place, which he now occupied under the ſecretary. The deſires of the queen were no ſooner excited, than ſhe reſolved on their immediate gratification. In order to effect this, one Campan, a valet de chambre, to whom the office of the queen's confidential ambaſſador was not a new one, was ordered to introduce the clerk into her cloſet. Accuſtomed to tranſactions of this nature, this adroit procurer executed the orders of Antoinette with expedition and ſucceſs. An interview ſoon took place ; the clerk could not ſufficiently congratulate himſelf on this unexpected felicity, and Antoinette was but too happy in the poſſeſſion of a lover, whom nature ſeemed to have endowed with abilities ſuited to her deſires. When the unthinking extacy of their firſt interviews gave way to reflection, it occurred to the queen, that by the frequent viſits of this favorite ſcrivener to her apartment, ſuſpicions might be excited, equally fatal to him and her. On this occaſion, ſhe had immediate recourſe to the advice of her privy-counſellor Campan ; and the following artifice was finally

ly determined to be put in practice. The clerk was to be furnished from time to time with pieces of music, under a pretext of copying which for the queen, he made her frequent and unsuspected visits. By this ingenious contrivance, the happy couple continued their clandestine meetings, for some length of time, in security; but, by some accident, the count d'Artois was at length led to suspect their connection, and accused the queen of it. It might be imagined, that on this occasion she would have had recourse to those acts of deception, in which she had acquired an unrivalled proficiency. But far from that, she frankly acknowledged her extravagant fondness for this handsome Hercules; believing her gallant brother-in-law too liberal in his sentiments to censure her with severity. She, at the same time, expressed her apprehensions that the amour might be discovered by the king, and requested the advice of *fraternal friendship*, concerning its future management. D'Artois wholly disapproved the connection, and insisted on her never seeing the clerk again. Such was her situation with the count at this time, that she found herself under the necessity of consenting to a strict compliance with his wishes. She therefore declared she would be entirely guided by his counsel, and desired him to dispose of the young man at his own pleasure. The count was pleased with this commission, which he executed but too faithfully. In a few days afterwards the clerk was assassinated on the road which leads from Paris to Versailles.

CHAPTER VI.

THE winter which followed this adventure was, like the preceeding, sacrificed at the shrine of licentious dissipation. It was, however, if possible, more luxurious and expensive. La Bertin and Guimard were now preferred to the honourable place of the queen's

private miniftreffes. La Bertin was a *milliner*, and Guimard an *opera girl*. Of all the celebrated prieftefles of Venus, never were any more deeply verfed in her arts and myfteries than thefe. Having practifed with unremitting affiduity from early life, they had now attained to almoft unrivalled eminence. Antoinette, ever the patronefs of this fpecies of merit, determined to reward that abundance of it which fhe difcovered in this *virtuous couple*. It appeared to her a kind of injuftice, that talents worthy to be fubfervient only to royal luxury, fhould be proftituted to plebeian pleafure. She therefore raifed them to the rank of her confidential friends. Happy had it been for France, had Louis XVI. difcovered as much fagacity as Antoinette in the choice of his minifters. Sully, Colbert, and Richlieu, for management and fineffe, were fcarce to be compared with La Bertin and Guimard. While the amours of the queen were under the direction of thefe machiavelian females, they were veiled from the public eye with the moft artful fecrecy. It cannot therefore be expected, that we fhould give a particular account of them.

So capricious however was Antoinette, that even the moft important fervices could not long fecure her favour. She foon grew tired of practifing what fhe termed the timid caution of La Bertin and Guimard. Impatient of the reftraints of that fecrecy to which they advifed, fhe gradually cooled in her friendfhip towards them, and at length difmiffed them from her fervice.

About this time, Madame Jules de Polignac was brought to bed. The court, on this occafion, paffed feveral days in revelry and rejoicings. The queen was fuppofed to pay the utmoft attention to her friend la Polignac, to keep continually at her bed-fide, and to become, in fact, her nurfe. She was lodged in an apartment of Vaudreuil, at Paris. Thofe who were unacquainted with the intrigues of the court, thought it very fingular, that la Polignac had not been lodged in the palace of Verfailles, which would have appeared at once more natural and decent. Let fuch be informed, that it was in-

finitely more convenient that ſhe ſhould be with Vaudreuil. The daily viſits of the queen to Paris were owing to other motives than thoſe of female friendſhip. Madame la Polignac had been familiar with Vaudreuil, and ſhe had become the mother of a *ſon*. La Polignac was however uſed with tenderneſs and generoſity. The queen made her a preſent of a box of jewels, valued at 80,000 livres, and the king, influenced by her example, forgot his uſual parſimony, and gave her an equal ſum in ſilver. She was alſo preſented with the duchy of Mayenne, worth the *trifling ſum* of 1,400,000 livres. To this laſt piece of liberality Mr. Neckar preſumed to make ſome oppoſition. But he found this only gave diſpleaſure, and recollecting the fall of Mr. Turgot, he prudently determined to comply with the royal whim of the moment. He therefore only adviſed that inſtead of the duchy in queſtion, the lady ſhould be put in poſſeſſion of nearly its value in ready money. This propoſal, being ſatisfactory to the parties concerned, was immediately put in execution.

Meantime the very frequent paſſings and repaſſings of the queen from Verſailles to Paris which had taken place, gave much uneaſineſs to the Pariſians. Accuſtomed to reſpect the decency of majeſty, and to view with awe the ſplendor of ſovereignty, they could not contemplate without indignation ſuch ſhameful degradations of royalty, and ſuch a waſte of favors on one ſo undeſerving. La Polignac became more than ever the object of public hatred. The ſcandalous profuſion with which the national treaſury had been poured into her lap, could not but excite the anger of thoſe from whom it had been previouſly extorted for very different purpoſes. The queen was ſurrounded by the family of this favorite, and ſhe had loaded all its members with innumerable favors. The aſcendency which la Polignac now acquired is at once ſurpriſing and incredible. A few weeks after the birth of her child ſhe was attacked by a dangerous indiſpoſition, on which occaſion the queen diſcovered the utmoſt concern, and cauſed ſome apartments near her

own

own to be prepared in the moſt elegant and expenſive manner for the accommodation of la Polignac. She was immediately removed thither, and till ſhe recovered none could have acceſs to her except *Vaudreuil and the queen*. On the eſtabliſhment of her health, it was thought highly convenient, that ſhe ſhould ſtill continue to occupy thoſe apartments. Here was found as convenient a rendezvous as could be wiſhed, for the meetings of the queen and her privy council. Here they aſſembled to debate on the moſt important points of policy. Here were diſcuſſed and determined, in the *laſt reſort*, peace and war, finance, policy, the diſgracing of miniſters, or the degree of confidence which might be placed in them; and, in ſhort, all affairs of ſtate were agitated and managed in this cabinet. The king was ſometimes admitted into this aſſembly, to ratify their ridiculous deciſions; but the honor of entering into their conſultations was never accorded to him. The queen had acquired ſuch an aſcendency over him, that her ſolicitations were very ſeldom ineffectual.

Sometimes the king, aſtoniſhed at the propoſitions and deciſions of this female cabal, refuſed the ſanction of his authority, till he ſhould conſult the ancient *Compte*. On theſe occaſions he was uſually ſtopped, and impriſoned in the arms of Antoinette, until he was forced to grant his conſent; either being melted into compliance by her affected tenderneſs, or apprehenſive of being ſtifled with embraces, if he perſiſted in his refuſal. But, if he ſometimes eſcaped, the queen immediately cauſed ſomething to be ſaid to the mentor of her royal lord, which induced him to give ſuch advice alone as accorded with her wiſhes.

Vaudreuil and Beſenval, and ſome other men, were admitted to theſe conferences. Madame Jules de Polignac, Madame de Grammont, and Madame Deſmaine were three principal female members; the latter of whom acted the part of *miniſter of foreign affairs*.

It may not be improper in this place, to give a ſlight ſketch of the characters of ſome of thoſe, who thus directed

rected the movements of France, and treated the most important affairs of state with as much levity as the fold of a garment, or the change of a fashion.

CHAPTER VII.

WE begin with Vaudreuil. Vaudreuil inherited nothing from his father, who was a good man, but his name. He had been commandant of St. Domingo. Possessed of an ambitious and intriguing disposition, but, at the same time, neither sagacious nor active, he courted fortune long in vain. He, at length, grew weary of the fruitless pursuit, entirely neglected business, and gave himself up to pleasure. Fortune, as if softened by neglect, now loaded him with favours, and placed him high in preferment. He was introduced at court by a gentleman of the Helvetic cantons, not unknown in the catalogue of royal favors.

Besenval was one of those, whose minds are always governed by the circumstances of the moment. Incapable of permanent ideas, or extensive views, he varied with every variation of affairs, and traversed to every puff of air. Ambitious, insensible, and vain, the meanest of sycophants, and the most unblushing of hypocrites, he deserted entirely the urbanity of his fellow-citizens, to practise knavery in courts. It is this Besenval, who, with unparalleled effrontery, presumed to put his merit in competition with that of the virtuous veteran d'Affry, whose place had excited his envy. Although his ambition was in some measure disappointed, yet he succeeded so far as to procure d'Affry, through the compte d'Artois, a multitude of mortifications, which the honest old soldier felt the more sensibly, from his being conscious that he did not merit them ; and, at the same time, being unable either to repulse or revenge them. They were inflicted by the authority of the queen, and by the hand of d'Artois. Dillon,

Dilion, Coigny, and Vermont, whom we have before mentioned, had a voice in their councils. The illuftrious Campan was alfo admitted ; and he was indeed an important member, although fufpected to be the fon of a footman, of the houfe of Ventadour, of which even himfelf had once the honor of wearing the livery. This hero, fo worthy the favor of a great princefs, was the *perpetual fecretary* of this honorable committee. To this fecond *Bonneau*, who was indeed more artful than the firft, the queen owed the new invention of giving her orders, and managing her affignations, by mufic. This contrivance was confidered by its author, as a chef d'œuvre. It was this chevalier of the order of St. Lazarus, who ufed to carry mufic to be copied, to wait an anfwer at the ftair-cafe head, introduce the copyift, and guard the door.

At length, fome matters which had been agitated in this cabinet, by chance, took air. This was wholly attributed to Madame de Chatillon, who was fuppofed to have placed an improper confidence in the marquis d'Entragues, with whom fhe had been *familiarly* acquainted at Befençon. This cunning courtier had determined never to difcover this intrigue ; but fome things which had accidentally efcaped him, had excited fufpicions in the bofom of his friend the prince de Montbarry. This minifter, who had long fhewed his difpleafure at the licentioufnefs of the queen, and the treacheries of the compte d'Artois, was now hated by the courtiers of both parties. He had taken the liberty of criticifing with feverity the minifterial meafures of Maurepas, and his *private* life was examined with as little ceremony as his public.

CHAP-

CHAPTER VIII.

THE queen was now a ſecond time declared pregnant. This event was diſcloſed in a manner ſurpriſingly ſingular. The queen cordially deteſted M. de Maurepas; nor was ſhe fonder of the ancient counteſs, his wife, or their relations, the abbé de Verry, and madame Seguin. Not ignorant of this circumſtance, the antique couple conducted themſelves accordingly, aiming at that neutral tenor of conduct which neither ſolicited the friendſhip of the queen, nor furniſhed her with a pretence for anger. At the moment when the breach was imagined to be wider than ever, Antoinette went to the houſe of the count, and cauſed herſelf to be announced. "Good morning, papa," cried ſhe, on ſeeing the count, "you are undoubtedly aſtoniſhed at this viſit, "but I flatter myſelf that when we part you will not be "diſſatisfied with it."

Madame de Maurepas, who was in the apartment, now aroſe to withdraw, that ſhe might not incommode the buſineſs of that private interview with her huſband, which appeared to be the object of this viſit. The queen, perceiving her intention, prevented her departure. "My "dear counteſs," ſaid ſhe, "you muſt not leave me. "I have need of your friendſhip as well as that of your "worthy huſband. The ſecret which I am about to "confide to him, muſt alſo be entruſted to you. I muſt "on this occaſion ſolicit you both to become my parents, "protectors and counſellors. But before we proceed to "my affairs, let us begin by conſigning our paſt animoſities to eternal oblivion, and uniting ourſelves in "the firmeſt bonds of amity. I muſt frankly acknowledge, that I have ſometimes conducted myſelf unworthily towards you; but this was wholly owing to "the diſadvantageous impreſſions concerning you which

"were

"were forced on my mind by your unprincipled enemies. "Here you behold the only origin of that unmerited "indifference, with which I have sometimes treated you. "Had I known you better, I had esteemed you more. "I am now undeceived, and I shall confide to you, without reserve, the most important of secrets."

"Know then," continued she, "I am pregnant! . . . "You appear to be rejoiced at this event, but it fills my "bosom with anxiety and alarm. I must explain myself; it is painful to be explicit; but your goodness "encourages me, and I will proceed without reserve.— "The king, mistrustful of his own impotence, has conceived unhappy suspicions concerning this event. These "suspicions have been strengthened and increased by the "caustic raillery of Monsieur and Madame, who have "not spared their royal brother on this occasion. My "husband, my infant, and myself have been handled "with equal severity by their unmerciful wit. The "countess d'Artois is also my enemy; and her stupid "clamours may do me much injury. But I may set all "their malice at defiance, if you are my friends; let me "believe this, and my tortured bosom will recover its "former tranquillity. If you prove inflexible, and remain unmoved at my distress, I am lost forever!"

Versed in all the arts of dissimulation, and acquainted with every avenue to the heart, Antoinette, as she uttered these last words, affected to faint, and sunk apparently insensible from her chair. This completed her victory. The count and his wife ran about the apartment like distracted persons, and recovered not the use of their reason till the queen was *restored to life* by the attendants, who had rushed in, on being alarmed by the cries of this pair of reverend dupes. The attendants were then dismissed, and the count and countess, drowned in tears, threw themselves at the feet of the queen, declaring that they were entirely at her devotion, and swearing eternal fidelity.

After these assurances, and not till then, Antoinette came entirely to herself; and without quitting that melting

melting modulation of voice, which ſhe had aſſumed in the former part of her narration, ſhe thus continued it with all the pathos of diſſembled grief.

"Believe me, my friends, I am the innocent victim of "the falſehood of others, and my own credulity. I am "betrayed by the perfidious counſels of the artful Beſen-"val. He inſinuated that the people of France were "ſcandalized at my levity, and diſſatisfied with my ſter-"ility. He then intimated that the only means of re-"covering their reſpect, and conciliating their affections, "was, to preſent the people with a prince, and the "throne with a ſucceſſor. I at firſt imagined theſe rep-"reſentations deſtitute of foundation; but he cauſed "Vaudreuil and Coigny, to whom he knew I ſometimes "entruſted my domeſtic chagrins, to reaſon with me in "the ſame manner. They never approached me with-"out repreſenting my huſband and my people diſpleaſed "that I had yet borne no ſon. They painted to my "view in colours the moſt alarming, the humility of di-"vorce, and the horrors of proſcription. I was at "length overcome. But, conſcious as I was of the in-"efficacy of conjugal endearments, I found myſelf com-"pelled to have recourſe to infidelity. I was not led to "the commiſſion of this error by wantonneſs; but driv-"en, as I imagined, by neceſſity. It was therefore a "miſtake of the judgment, not a crime of the heart. "Your goodneſs will deem me not wholly inexcuſable, "although I have been betrayed into a momentary "weakneſs. I have thus frankly told you the origin of "my preſent ſituation. You alone can repreſent it in a "proper light to the king; you alone can preſerve me "from ruin!"

"Bleſſed be thy offspring, illuſtrious princeſs!" exclaimed the counteſs, "all ſhall be well. We lament "what has happened, but it is irrevocable. It is not "for us to cenſure ſo amiable a ſovereign. It is rather "our duty to guard her reputation in the moment of "danger. Go, my dear count, now is the time to avail "yourſelf of that aſcendency, which you have acquired

over

"over the mind of the king. Go, and make an effort "to render yourfelf worthy of the confidence repofed "in you by our auguft queen."

Marie Antoinette was too cunning not to feize on this moment of enthufiafm. Falling on the neck of the countefs, fhe embraced her with tears of gratitude, and infifted on her coming with the count her hufband, to fup with her at court that evening, when the count might have an opportunity of executing with the king thofe friendly offices which he had promifed in her favor. They accepted the invitation, and appeared at court accordingly. During fupper they were treated with the moft diftinguifhing attentions, and the warmeft marks of reconciliation and efteem. To the courtiers this unexpected event was an aftonifhing and infcrutible paradox. All were ignorant of its caufe, and the prefumptions formed concerning it, were all wide from reality.

When the reft of the court retired, the count remained with the king; and after a moft artful preface, for the fabrication of which he was well qualified, announced the pregnancy of the queen. At firft a frown appeared on the monarch's brow; but the perfuafive eloquence of Maurepas diffipated the gathering ftorm, and at length prevailed on him to believe he had a fecond time become a parent. In order to account for the conduct of Marie Antoinette on this occafion, it is neceffary to inform the reader, that Louis had been led to entertain fufpicions concerning her former pregnancy, which fhe had found it difficult to obviate. Languifhing with her own unfatisfied defires, and enraged by the provoking temperance of her hufband's paffions, fhe had often reproached him with want of fenfibility, and intimated her conviction of his impotence. He had been an eye witnefs to much of the levity of her conduct: and the bufy crowd by which he was furrounded had often filled his ears with infinuations, that her career of licentioufnefs had not ftopped fhort of the extreme of infidelity. The

fcruples

ſcruples cauſed by theſe circumſtances were, however, at length overcome by the artful Maurepas.

The day ſucceeding this farce, the court aſſumed a new appearance. The credulous monarch publicly declared the joyful news, nor did he attempt to conceal the tranſports with which it inſpired him. He no longer ſaluted the gallants of his wife, with the malignant glances of ſilent jealouſy; but in the fulneſs of his heart embraced all he met, proclaiming, in a voice of extacy, the glad tidings.

The Auſtrian heroine, being delivered from all her fears, purſued her ordinary round of licentiouſneſs with increaſed ardor. Wholly abſorbed in his delightful dream of paternity, the monarch no longer viewed her conduct with ſuſpicious vigilance; he was, beſides, too grateful to offer the authoreſs of his felicity the unkindneſs of conſtraint. He ceaſed to liſten to the inſinuations of the enemies of Antoinette, and regarded their repreſentations againſt her as the offspring of falſehood and calumny. That ſtrong averſion with which all men turn from the idea of a deficient virility, ſtrengthened his credulity, and ſhut his ears againſt conviction. On all thoſe glaring facts, which, armed in all the energy of demonſtration, from time to time, ſtood forth to encounter his deluſion, he obſtinately cloſed his eyes.

CHAPTER IX.

THE pregnancy of the queen meantime advanced, which was not, however, according to the etiquette of court, declared in the fifth month, on account of the ſarcaſms which it was apprehended this event might produce. Madame, particularly, ſpared nobody; and the moſt perfect hatred always exiſted between her and the queen.

The joy occaſioned by this pregnancy ſuffered ſome interruption

interruption from the recurrence of an inconvenience to which the queen had been long ſubject. It conſiſted in what is termed in medical language, a *prolapſus uteri*, cauſed by the unbounded exceſs to which ſhe gave herſelf up, in the enjoyment of her favorite *Tribades*. This circumſtance was attributed however to want of ſkill in the queen's accoucheur, Vermond. He nevertheleſs kept in favor, as well as his brother, the abbè de Vermond, who uſed to entertain, in his queen, the taſte of depravity and the privation of morals!

The duc de Nivernois, the gamblers of the court, the bankers *Chalabre* and *Poincot*, the wanton *Juers*, the little Campan, with a number of muſicians and ſingers, compoſed the ſociety to which Marie Antoinette gave the preference. Such is the dignity which the throne of France was to receive from the daughter of Maria Tereſa.

The wicked counſels which had been given her by Joſeph II. on her departure from the German court, ſhe kept conſtantly in mind. But, to render their execution practicable, it was neceſſary to remove a miniſter who had always been declared her enemy.

She was not, indeed, ignorant of the means of diſembarraſſing herſelf from a refractory miniſter.—By the death of the aged Maurepas, ſhe had proved the infallibility of the receipt. But ſuſpicions had ariſen; and a ſecond uſe of *poiſon* might have opened the eyes of France.

The troubles of the emperor, from day to day, increaſed; and he in vain attempted to calm the minds of his ſubjects, who deteſted his oppreſſion, and ſeemed inclined to diſengage their necks from the odious yoke of tyranny. His treaſury needed freſh ſupplies; but he had no other reſource than the queen of France. She, with the aſſiſtance of the comptroller Joliete-Fleury, cauſed a number of very conſiderable ſums to be privately tranſmitted to the emperor.

This miniſter being diſgraced, Antoinette endeavored to get him replaced by means of a creature who was one

of her confidents; but her hopes could not be accomplished. Dormesson proved intractable; and she found herself deprived of the means of succouring her brother, at the very moment when the villain Calonne was in possession of the finances, and could squander them at pleasure. This merciless blood-sucker, this soul of corruption, who was insensible to the cries of pain, and sported with the public misery, was quite the proper person to second her destructive schemes.

CHAPTER X.

CHARLES Philip d'Artois had, for some time, behaved with unusual coolness to his sister-in-law. His passion for her became weakened by her intrigues. It was not till fear removed her other lovers that he resumed his place. Impelled by the most alarming apprehensions of discovery, they had successively forsaken her; while she in vain employed wanton looks, and expressive touches, to prevent their departure. Their ardor having abated, they shrunk away with horror, at the idea of being caught in the arms of the queen. She therefore clung to her brother-in-law, who, less fearful of the dangers of the connection, supplied the place of Coigny, Dillon, Vaudreuil, &c.

The *wise* pretended, that of this return of tenderness the Dauphin was the offspring. And this suspicion was even circulated in the ballads of the day.

The voluptuous d'Artois, a man of little refinement in his pleasures, was intimately connected with the duc de Chartres, then Philip Capet, or d'Orleans. They collected in their travels nothing except an ample stock of vices and follies. English customs, manners, and fashions made such an impression on the frivolous minds of these *opera-knights* of *scandalous adventures*, that, when they returned to France, they made it their only business

nefs to ape the manners of the people of Great-Britain. The courtiers, thofe vile fycophants, in their turn, copied d'Artois and de Chartres: and, in a fhort time, all became *Englifh* in the court and in the city; the king, and the egotift, Staniflaus-Xavier, only excepted.

Every day, new races at Vincennes, on the plain of Sablons, added a new varnifh to the follies of thefe princes. The French people, whofe morality is pleafure, flocked in multitudes to thefe diverfions, as if they went there to be fpectators of fome important event: even mechanics univerfally deferted their fhops, to behold the ridiculous fpectacle of princes dreffed like Englifh grooms. On the vigor and intrepidity of thefe valiant *jockies* hung the fate of fortunes! Thefe two unworthy branches of the blood of the Bourbons acquired as much glory by fuch ruinous parties, as by their famous exploits at *Gibraltar*, and in the affair of *Oueffant*.

Habited like an amazon, and mounted on a fuperb palfry, Marie Antoinette fhowed herfelf the friend of their pleafures, becaufe they favored her own. But before entering into particulars, I ought to give my readers an anecdote which muft forever eftablifh the economical character of Louis XVI.

The French monarch, who now for once through complaifance left his forge, and fuffered himfelf to be conducted to a race, was fupplied by his fpoufe with wherewithal to intereft himfelf in it. At firft, however, he refufed to bet; but feeming at length to yield to the importunity of the queen, he anfwered her, with that fimplicity which characterifed him, and an unmeaning fmile, "Is it your wifh? Well, fo it fhall be. I confent. I will bet a crown on my brother's horfe!" This was, at that time, attributed to the parfimony of Louis. It was, however, a difcreet leffon to fools, who ruin themfelves by being too deeply interefted in thefe amufements.

When the races were fcarce finifhed, Antoinette ufed to depart, like a flafh, for Trianon, where fhe did not long wait to be joined by her voluptuous brother-in-law;

law; and these clandestine interviews usually terminated in the most luxurious excesses. They both laid aside all reserve, and gave an unbounded loose to every wantonness which their inflamed imaginations, and their inebriated senses could suggest.

It will be imagined from the good understanding which now reigned between these illustrious and incestuous lovers, that Charles Philip occupied all the thoughts of his sister-in-law. But constancy was not the favorite virtue of the queen of France.

In order to escape the prying vigilance of that surrounding suspicion which continually watched her amorous adventures, our heroine frequently made a specious pretence of indisposition. She now declared, that the air of a court but ill agreed with her situation, and that solitude had become necessary, as well to the health of her body, as the tranquillity of her mind. Her physicians, being bribed for that purpose, publicly asserted, that a temporary retirement into the country would be extremely proper, and that this removal was rendered indispensable by its probable utility. Laden with this passport of the faculty, to which Louis blindly subscribed, she fled from the dangers with which she was surrounded at court, to revel in *certain temples*, where she presided in quality of *high priestess*.

The comte d'Artois was certainly not addicted to jealousy. He never loved with an ardor sufficient to give birth to this hateful passion. The appearance of it, however, he was sometimes induced to assume, by his self-love. While Antoinette was engaged in these shameful adventures, d'Artois, one day, accused her of what he called infidelity. The queen, wholly ignorant of the female art of blushing, heard him without the least emotion. She then, with that effrontery which is so natural to her, discovered to the compte her peculiar taste for variety, and particularly expatiated on her fondness for the charming Fersenne; and, in fine, intimated that d'Artois had become indifferent to her.

This

This franknefs of Antoinette was not difpleafing to Charles Philip. There is fometimes an aftonifhing harmony between fouls of congenial bafenefs.

CHAPTER XI.

THE handfome *Ferfenne*, a colonel in the regiment of Royal Swedes, was now the happy man. He had long been enamoured of the queen, and fhe had rewarded his earlieft advances with fuch tender and expreffive glances, that he was convinced he was not to languifh a long time for the poffeffion of the object of his defires.

One day as Ferfenne, abforbed in this tender and delightful reverie, fauntered about the orange-grove of the château de Verfailles, he was obferved by Antoinette. Their eyes foon met, and fhe looked a fignal, which left him no further room to doubt his happinefs. Returning to her apartment, fhe meditated only on the means of effecting an happy iffue to this charming adventure; and, for this purpofe, fhe fent one of her pages to her favorite colonel, with a fmall box, in which was enclofed the following billet.

"Flora to Zephyr.

"My dear Zephyr,

"I HAVE for fome time obferved that you frequent "the parterres, of which I am miftrefs; and regard with "attention the flowers which are under my dominion. "What are your defigns, and what are your wifhes? "You have excited my fufpicions; and I am alarmed "for the fafety of my flowers. Ravifh them not un-"generoufly away; remember that I am their queen, "and fhall punifh him who fteals my favorite treafure.

"This evening at nine, I fhall be at *Trianon.* If "Zephyr fhould be touched by the inquietude of Flora,

"let

" let him be there to calm her fears, and foothe the " chagrin with which fhe is confumed. He will be in- " troduced by the governor of my gardens."

The queen did not wait long for an anfwer. The box was returned by the fame poft. On opening it, the queen found the following.

" ZEPHYR TO FLORA.

" IT is with indifference that Zephyr views the flow- " ers of Flora ; when he vifits her parterres, it is in hopes " of finding their queen, and it is her alone he wifhes " to behold. Yet, when he is in her prefence, his mouth " is clofed with refpect, and his eyes are the filent in- " terpreters of his heart.

" This evening at nine, love and gratitude will carry " Zephyr to *Trianon*. Then will he ftrive to banifh the " inquietude of Flora, and to convince her of the fin- " cerity of his profeffions."

Punctual to the moment, *Ferfenne* was introduced to an apartment in which Antoinette already waited his arrival with the moft lively impatience. Her intimate confidant, Bazin, was the *Mercury* of this interview. This vile and cringing valet was accuftomed to this office. Little did he think himfelf difgraced by the title of *pimp*, provided it were to an illuftrious perfonage.

From this period their interviews became frequent, and continued for a length of time, which exceeded the ufual duration of the amours of Antoinette. Her tafte for change, however, returned, and fhe fighed for a fucceffor to the exhaufted Ferfenne.

She was hefitating on whom to beftow this place, when the countefs *Valois de la Motte* was prefented to the queen by *la Mifery*, her firft *femme de chambre*. This unfortunate countefs appeared at court, to folicit the poffeffion of the territory of Fontété, which had been enjoyed by her anceftors.

Antoinette

Antoinette affected to patronise her demand, guided, as she pretended, by a principle of equity. It was, however, with a view of acquiring a claim to her gratitude, that Antoinette interested herself in this affair. She therefore used her influence with Calonne, to obtain a trifling augmentation of the pension, which the countess already received from the court. By the addition of 700 livres to the 800, which had before been granted to enable her to support with proper dignity the name of Valois, the queen hoped to accomplish her designs.

The cardinal de Rohan had not yet renounced the projects which his passion for Antoinette had formerly inspired. He still watched all her movements, and intercepted all her looks. He early discovered her intentions respecting la Motte, before they were even suspected by the latter. This he immediately communicated to the countess, hoping, by this office of apparent friendship, to render her subservient to his views.

In the progress of this affair, Antoinette was insensibly conducted towards that vengeance which she had long secretly meditated against the cardinal. But his destruction did not prove so complete as she wished it to have been. A scaffold was the fate which her humanity intended him.

The collar on which the queen had so pertinaciously fixed her affections, was at length obtained. *Lexclaux*, her secret messenger, was charged with its delivery. She received it with transport; and, in that moment, swore to make it the instrument of the cardinal's ruin. It was not her intention to have involved the countess de la Motte in those misfortunes which afterwards overwhelmed her. These were produced by an unforeseen concurrence of circumstances. Concerning this event, there were, in Paris, almost as many opinions as persons.

It is impossible to represent in their true colours, all the horrors which were produced by this wicked action of Antoinette. One of its effects, however, (dreadful

as it is) muſt not be omitted. In conſequence of this affair, the two ſhoulders of the counteſs de la Motte were marked and branded with four ſcandalous lines of verſe, (with which we ſhall not diſgrace our page) on the tenth of July, 1786, by virtue of a decree of the parliament.

It was neceſſary, in order to complete the purpoſe of Marie Antoinette, that theſe diamonds ſhould be entirely at her own diſpoſal; and this was, in a ſhort time, effected. The benefactions which ſhe was now enabled to beſtow on her favorites appeared the more generous, becauſe they were valuable; and they were conferred with a better grace, as they coſt her nothing.

By theſe benefactions was the unfortunate counteſs de la Motte afterwards conducted to an infamous poſt, to ſuffer that undeſerved mark of ignomy which ſhe received from the hand of a public executioner.

The niceſt artifice, and the moſt exquiſite hypocriſy, were now neceſſary to extricate our heroine from a ſituation ſo critical. Had the baſeneſs of her conduct been diſcovered, ſhe would have been covered with ſhame and infamy. But on this occaſion, governed by her ordinary principles, ſhe made a ſacrifice of innocence, to add a few moments to the exiſtence of her already expiring honor. She therefore availed herſelf of every precaution, and folded her atrocity in the moſt impenetrable veil that the moſt unprincipled and artful of minds could form.

Conſcious that the ſmalleſt degree of confidence on this ſubject might prove deſtructive, the queen conducted herſelf with the ſtricteſt reſerve. In vain did the crafty and ſagacious baron de Breteuil endeavour to draw from her the ſecret, by confident demands, or by inſidious inquiries. With unſhaken firmneſs ſhe perſevered in denying that this toy had ever been in her poſſeſſion. She uniformly aſſerted that ſhe knew as little of the matter as la Motte. Theſe declarations ſhe continued to repeat, till la Motte was loſt!

The queen thus eſcaped a proceſs, the whole infamy of

of which was due to her alone. Her name was no longer mentioned but as having been abufed; and an univerfal indignation was expreffed againft thofe fuppofed impoftors, who had dared to defame their fovereign, in hopes to fcreen their guilty heads from juftice.

A fentence, which violated every principle of law and equity, was now pronounced, and innocence was its victim.

Notwithftanding the filence which was enjoined with regard to this affair by the minifterial inquifition, the queen was not the lefs defamed in the *opinion* of the public. She, however, loft nothing of her fecurity. She ftill kept in poffeffion three hundred and fifty-fix diamonds, of the collar which fhe had fo handfomely obtained; and from which fhe ftill hoped one day to difplay a fet of bracelets fimilar to thofe worn by the queen of England. The tricks and intrigues of the count de Vergennes, in the courfe of this iniquitous affair, taught the queen how neceffary it was to beware of him. And, as crimes coft her nothing, fhe now meditated one againft him, the execution of which foon followed.

The ill fuccefs of the emperor's own affairs, together with the turn which the affair of the collar had taken in France, had now rendered him inconfolable. All his projects were now difappointed. Although he had before received a fufficient number of proofs of the wickednefs of his fifter, and of the imbecility of the cardinal de Rohan; yet his falfe policy had perfuaded him that his ambition might be fatisfied, and his views fulfilled by the affiftance of this minifter, who would not have hefitated to fecond that confufion in the ftate which the emperor meditated, and of which he knew how to profit.

Meantime the mind of Antoinette was wholly occupied by the moft execrable of defigns; and anticipated the glory to be acquired by its execution. One of her enemies was however yet alive. Plans were formed to bring about his expulfion from court. Accufations, founded in truth, were in vain fought for, to occafion his

his banifhment; and the efforts of calumny ferved only to brighten his triumph.

She had in her poffeffion the famous receipt of Catharine de Medicis. The aged Maurepas had fallen a victim to its fatal effects; even in the moment, when the queen profeffed a fincere reconciliation, and fwore to receive his advice ever after with the higheft deference. But fhe embraced only that fhe might ftrangle. She determined to beftow on Vergennes a fimilar dofe; and the execrable Polignac was fixed on as her affiftant in the commiffion of this crime. For this purpofe, a reconciliation with this infamous woman became neceffary. This the artful Antoinette effected without difficulty. The fatal poifon was artfully prepared, and fpeedily given. The count de Vergennes was feized with a mortal langour, and foon expired.

The reconciliation between the queen and Polignac, furnifhed matter for much flander. The infamous attachment of Antoinette became the fubject of public converfation and univerfal cenfure. But fhe laughed at farcafm, and liftened to her own infamy without blufhing.

The emperor ftill nourifhed the hope of effecting an inteftine divifion in France. He communicated his projects to his fifter; and fhe feconded them with all her influence.

Jules de Polignac became the favorite of Antoinette, and the foul of all her pleafures. They were now infeparable companions, and all the moments which the queen could fnatch from the company of Louis were devoted to this libidinous duchefs. She punifhed the indolence of the king by the moft abominable commerce, which fhe now fcarce took pains to conceal from him.

Sometimes the count d'Artois joined in their lewd orgies; but the queen feared his approach. She knew that able gamefters do not play for nothing. The royal family muft already have been confiderably augmented, but for the abortive noftrums given to Antoinette by

Polignac.

Polignac. And the queen determined that future recourfe to their aid fhould be unneceffary.

Her conduct in the meantime continued to be a fubject of popular animadverfion ; and from day to day epigrams, pafquinades, and ballads were publifhed, which proved the infamous depth to which fhe had funk in the eftimation of France. Of this general cenfure fhe could not long remain ignorant. When fhe difcovered it, the hatred which fhe had conceived againft France was increafed ; and from that moment fhe fwore its deftruction.

The means were eafy. The minifter had long foretold the ruin which fhe had meditated. One circumftance was now wanting, and this haftened to arrive.

Deluded by appearances, Louis flept in fancied fecurity.

The princes of the blood royal of the houfe of Bourbon had given frequent proofs of decided patriotifm, and were in poffeffion of the public efteem. But fhe confidered them as fo many weathercocks which might be turned at pleafure by the lighteft wind. She thought nothing more eafy than to difcover their fentiments, and fubject them to her own management.

During this time fhe fuffered much from the jealous, fierce, and impetuous temper of the duchefs de Polignac, which had now arifen to an infupportable excefs.

The time of Antoinette was at this period divided between the gratification of her loofer wifhes, her fervices to the emperor, and her attentions to the princes of the blood. The firft of thefe occupations was always her higheft concern. Her brother now ftood in need of immediate fupplies, which fhe undertook to procure him. And to make the princes fubfervient to her wifhes, it was neceffary to flatter their ambition. The foul of Antoinette was alone capable of executing a project fo perfidious and fo deftructive as that in which fhe was engaged.

D'Artois, without being envious of the crown, had lavifhed upon it all his cares. But the birth of a duke

of

of Normandy, which was indeed the effect of his own exertions, caused him to shed tears of rage. And now was formed the most horrid and detestable of triumvirates. The members mutually engaged their several dependents, and swore the destruction of the people, and the total ruin of France. The prince d'Artois entered fully and cordially into this plot. He had peculiar reasons for becoming an enemy to his countrymen. On his return from his glorious expedition to Gibraltar, they had unmercifully loaded him with the most insupportable raillery. He still felt the disgraceful wounds which his honor had received, and he sighed for revenge.

An unexpected resistance from a parliament, on whose assistance this league had placed much dependence, caused the commencement of this enterprize to prove abortive. The intractability of the parliament was at first supposed to be a mere feint. The league persuaded the royal *lion* to roar, in order to frighten this disobedient and ridiculous areopagus to its duty. But the parliament still continued refractory; the Parisians also mutinied and invested the *Palais*. The enregisterment of the extravagant edict which had been dictated by Louis, was now entrusted to d'Artois, who began the business by giving the most incontestible proofs of his ferocious and sanguinary character, and ended it with the same poltroonery as at Gibraltar. He mounted the *grand escalier*, swearing like a demoniac, his mouth foaming and his eyes flashing with rage. But this ebullition of his spirits was soon cooled, and the hero descended fearfully, precipitately, and shamefully. He flew to his carriage, but too happy to have escaped the vengeance of an audacious hand which had been raised against him.

On his return to Versailles, he assured the king that *he* in future might take on *himself* the trouble of causing his will to be executed.

The capital remained in a state of agitation and alarm. The corps de garde were attacked and defeated; and soon after followed the famous genuflexion before the

the ſtatue of Henry IV. This ſpectacle drew tears from all who reflected how much his reign differed from the preſent.

The league beheld with ſecret ſatisfaction theſe troubles and diſſentions, which preſaged thoſe calamities to the production of which they aſpired. Senſible, however, of the neceſſity of circumſpection, they waited in ſilence for the arrival of the firſt favourable occaſion, of which they determined to profit. During this interval Antoinette beſtowed her time on a new ſpecies of amuſement.

As hobby-horſes were faſhionable at court, Antoinette now made choice of one for herſelf, and hers was a *buffoon*. That illuſtrious punſter, the Marquis de Biévre, was elevated to this honourable poſt. He had recommended himſelf to the queen by numerous inſipid epigrams, which he had made at his leiſure, and diſtributed among the courtiers; a ſet of beings, who, as they were deſtitute of learning and taſte, were incapable of a juſt appreciation of literary merit, and from whom it need not be ſurpriſing that his ſenſeleſs performances received the tribute of admiration and applauſe.

After the queen had made choice of this ſon of dullneſs for a preſident, ſhe ſelected from the herd of ſycophants which ſurrounded her, a number of members, qualified, in different degrees, by talents of a ſimilar nature, and formed what ſhe denominated a cabinet of wit, or *bureau d'eſprit*. The wit of this ſociety conſiſted wholly of *puns*; and it was in fact reſolved at one of their meetings, that any member who ſhould ſpeak a certain number of minutes without making a pun, ſhould be conſidered as having committed a crime, for which the penalty of being ſtiled *laze-fantaſie* ſhould be incurred. By the force of royal example, the rage for punning became at length ſo prevalent, that it was viſible in public writings of the moſt ſerious and important kind. Puns might be found in edicts, proclamations of the king, bills of taxation, and even in arrêts of the council.

council. But the worſt pun of all was the royal majeſty itſelf.

The queen was for a while in raptures with this ſelect ſociety; and moſt of its members ſhared the felicity of being led to Trianon by the allurements of their royal patroneſs. But as nothing could boaſt the power of pleaſing her for any length, ſhe ſoon neglected this favorite *coterie*, and their meetings became leſs frequent, and in fine were thought of no more.

CHAPTER XII.

ABOUT this time the miniſter, Calonne, became obnoxious to the queen. Being either unable or unwilling to ſupply her with the enormous ſums which ſhe from day to day demanded from the national treaſury, he had ventured on giving a denial to ſome requeſts of this nature. This audacious conduct excited her reſentment, and cauſed her to meditate his ruin. Verſed in all the arts of intrigue, and indefatigable in the purſuit of revenge, ſhe ſoon diſcovered the means of effecting his diſgrace. She cauſed private information to be given him, by ſome of her creatures, that a certain rival, anxious to obtain the place in the miniſtry which Calonne occupied, had determined on his aſſaſſination. This treacherous fiction was communicated in a manner which gave it a face of probability, and carried with it a conviction that produced the deſired effect. The miniſter, prudently eſteeming it a leſs misfortune to reſign his employment than to be deprived of his life, retired from office with fearful precipitation.

Archbiſhop Brienne, an impious and unprincipled character, ſucceeded Calonne as financier. His adminiſtration ſoon proved how deſtitute of diſcernment was that ſovereign who elevated him to this illuſtrious employment. He managed the national treaſury like a patrimony in which himſelf poſſeſſed a ſole and individual

propriety. All his actions were devoted to one purpose, that of increasing his own estate. Antoinette and d'Artois found him the most inconvenient person in the world to have the management of the treasury; for the sums which he embezzled from it were embezzled only for himself.

Louis, whose confidence in his minister was unbounded, submitted to his wife and brother the whole management of the most important affairs of his council. He, from time to time, without examination or thought, put the royal signature to every decree which was presented to him. When he demanded if his people were happy, he was always answered in the affirmative, and he gave himself no further concern about the matter. Every murmur of the nation was intercepted in its passage to the ears of the monarch; and as he did not hear the groans of his subjects, he suspected not the pains they suffered. He was indeed sometimes aroused to a little uneasiness when he contemplated the wretched situation of his finances, of which he could not be kept wholly ignorant; but he was soon lulled to sleep again by the artifices of those by whom he was surrounded.

As, during the administration of Brienne, Antoinette and d'Artois were denied that access to the national treasury, by which their enormous expenditures had before been supported, they now found themselves under the necessity of having recourse to private frauds. There was in Paris at this time, one M. Pinet, who, by a variety of scandalous means, had acquired immense riches. To him repeated applications were made for large sums, which were not obtained without great difficulty, and many promises, of which the queen was sufficiently lavish, of most extravagant gratuities, to be paid, together with the principal, at a short credit. These sums were quickly expended in riot and dissipation by Antoinette and her beloved brother-in-law; and when the time of payment arrived, they had nothing to remit. But the mind of the queen, ever fertile in expedients, soon devised the means of being extricated from this difficulty; she gave

the word, and Pinet ſuddenly diſappeared, and was heard of no more. Several others are ſaid to have ſuffered a fate ſimilar to that of Pinet ; and this inhuman traffic was carried on for ſome years. This pair of royal robbers drained the purſes of many citizens of Paris and Verſailles, who had been immenſely rich. They began theſe negociations with ſmiles and promiſes of favor, and uſually ended them with death or the Baſtille. Moſt of theſe deluded money-lenders, after diſcovering how much they had been duped, complained, with an imprudent bitterneſs, of the injuries they had ſuffered. Le Noir and his cabal were at this time wholly at the devotion of the queen and her brother-in-law. Le Noir was governor of the Baſtille, and he heſitated not to grant letters de cachet whenever they were demanded for the purpoſe of ſilencing audacious murmurs. The papers of the perſon impriſoned fell of courſe into the hands of le Noir, and he, from time to time, diſpoſed of them as directed by his royal miſtreſs.

This torrent of iniquity ſwelled to a moſt enormous height, and its courſe bore down compaſſion, humanity and juſtice ; ruined many of the moſt valuable citizens, and deſtroyed many of the firſt eſtates in France. This mode of raiſing money became, however, ſo notorious at length, that it could no longer be practiſed.

D'Artois, that illuſtrious knave, fertile in expedients, ſuggeſted one to our heroine, which, in the event, proved very advantageous to this luxurious pair. He put her in mind of the aſcendency which ſhe had over her huſband, and the advantages that might be derived from it. Infected by the inebriety of the tumultuous paſſions of thoſe by whom he was ſurrounded, the king had almoſt loſt ſight of himſelf. He had become leſs ſevere in his economy, which he now frequently relaxed in favour of good cheer. He had, in ſhort, either to diſſipate the gloom of anxiety, or gratify a depraved appetite, contracted an habit of drinking to conſiderable exceſs. In the moments of intoxication, his fondneſs for his *faithful* Antoinette was redoubled, and in the ardor of affection,

inſpired

inſpired at once by love and wine, he could refuſe nothing to the idol of his ſoul. By the advice of d'Artois, Antoinette prevailed on her royal ſpouſe, in one of theſe paroxyſms, to ſign a paper containing a ſolemn abdication of his kingdom. This, however, was extorted from him with great difficulty, and the queen, in effecting it, brought into exerciſe every artifice of which ſhe was miſtreſs. Tears, careſſes and threats were alternately employed for ſome time in vain ; but at length Louis was overcome, and ſuffered the pen to be put into his hand, which, being guided by Antoinette, reluctantly made the important ſignature. When the king recovered from his intoxication, he recollected with ſhame and diſtreſs the fatal folly of which he had been guilty the preceeding evening, and flew to the queen with anxious haſte, intending, if poſſible, to perſuade her to reſign the inſtrument he had executed, almoſt in a ſtate of inſenſibility. This was what ſhe wiſhed and expected ; ſhe had now an opportunity of taking the advantage of his fears, which ſhe improved to its utmoſt bounds. She at firſt peremptorily refuſed to part with the writing, and every argument of Louis proved ineffectual, till he offered her an enormous ſum of money to be paid from his treaſury in exchange for it. This propoſal prevailed on her, and a compromiſe took place. The ſtipulated ſum was actually paid, and divided between Antoinette and the contriver of this admirable plot. This event alſo operated in their favour with Brienne, who now no longer remained intractable. He began, like Calonne, to perceive that he could not enjoy the fruits of his villanies in ſafety without conſenting to a diviſion of them. His ill-gotten treaſure, while it ſecretly delighted his archiepiſcopal boſom, made him tremble with apprehenſions of diſcovery and puniſhment. He therefore cordially entered into the meaſures of Antoinette and d'Artois, and paid from the treaſury, without objection, the enormous ſums demanded, reſting his hopes of impunity in caſe of extremity, on the king's ſignature, which was given into his poſſeſſion. It muſt have appeared ſurpriſing to Lou-

is,

is, that the fondneſs of his wife ſhould have redoubled at the moment when he had leaſt reaſon to expect it. This was in fact the caſe ; and his ſuſpicions were from day to day increaſed by her frequent ſolicitations for orders on the treaſury, which were always enforced by a profuſion of careſſes, and of theſe at other times ſhe had of late been ſufficiently parſimonious. Being thus arouſed to ſome vigilance, the monarch at length diſcovered the colluſion between the queen, d'Artois and Brienne. He was now confirmed in his opinion, and immediately diſmiſſed Brienne from office : he alſo behaved to Antoinette for a while with unuſual coldneſs ; but he could never prevail on himſelf to treat her with that contempt ſhe deſerved.

Our pair of royal libertines being now once more reduced to extremity, entered upon the execution of a plot which they had often contemplated, and from which human nature revolts. This had been attempted once before, but unſucceſsfully, at the time of the cataſtrophe of the *Palais de Juſtice.* D'Artois now made every poſſible exertion to rally the male-contents. The moment that his ſiſter-in-law informed him that they could no longer have acceſs to the treaſury, he employed himſelf, in compliance with her advice, in laying the foundation of the moſt deteſtable of ariſtocracies. All the Polignacs, as will readily be imagined, were initiated, and the favorite *Jules* was particularly commiſſioned to bring over the princes of the blood, over whom ſhe had much influence. The pleaſures of Marie Antoinette now ſuffered an interval. The management of her creatures, the deſtruction of the throne, and the eſtabliſhment of that deſpotiſm for which ſhe labored, occupied all her thoughts. Beſenval, Broglio, d'Autichamp, and many others, entered with ardor into this infernal league. Madame Jules de Polignac neglected nothing that could expedite the completion of this monſtrous aſſociation. She promiſed penſions, places, and dignities with unlimited profuſion ; nor did ſhe heſitate at proſtitution where ſhe imagined it would prove the moſt powerful bribe. By theſe various

means

means ſhe added conſiderable numbers to the league. She perſuaded not only the princes of the blood royal, Conde, Conti, Bourbon, &c. but alſo a great many male-contents of the clergy, ſeveral diſgraced courtiers and noblemen who had been diſplaced by the king.

Antoinette was unanimouſly named chief of this horrible conſpiracy. There could not indeed be a more proper leader than this inhuman woman, who might well be ſtiled a fourth fury. The prince de Lambiſe was appointed general, and Beſenval his aid. D'Artois, Conde, Conti, and Bourbon were elected as a council to adviſe with Antoinette in the regulation of meaſures, and the reſt were to act in obedience to their directions. After the cabal had, in the opinion of Antoinette, d'Artois, and the council, become ſufficiently numerous, the following articles, being previouſly prepared for the purpoſe, were ſubſcribed and ſolemnly ſworn to, at one of their meetings, by every member.

ARTICLE I.

An oath, the moſt ſolemn and inviolable that can be invented, ſhall be pronounced by every member of this aſſociation before proceeding to buſineſs; and the ſlighteſt infraction of this oath ſhall be puniſhed with immediate death.

ARTICLE II.

Every military officer who is a member of this aſſociation, ſhall uſe his warmeſt endeavors to ſecure to our intereſt the ſubaltern officers, ſoldiers, and foreigners in the ſeveral corps to which they belong, (without, however, intirely diſcloſing to them our deſigns) in ſuch a manner that the troops under their command may be ready, on the ſhorteſt notice, for any operations which may be judged expedient.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE III.

The prince de Lambifc, who has done this affociation the honor to become a member thereof, obliges himfelf to bring into our fervice the Germans under his command, and fhall ufe every effort to induce them to ferve us with inviolable fidelity.

ARTICLE IV.

We name the prince de Lambifc generaliffimo, and he fhall be immediately caufed to take the oath of office in that quality.

ARTICLE V.

Thefe articles being eftablifhed, each prince of the blood royal fhall from that moment ufe every exertion to fecure the aid of their dependants and others, and fhall endeavor to infpire them with thofe fentiments of hatred for the French nation fo neceffary to the execution of our defigns.

ARTICLE VI.

We profcribe the duke of Orleans, he being beloved by the people, and they in return by him; and he confequently an enemy to our views.

ARTICLE VII.

As our intereft requires vigilance, exactitude, promptnefs and fidelity; and as it is highly important that our meafures fhould be purfued with order, decifion and unanimity, all fecret advices fhall be communicated to the whole affociation; queftions arifing on thefe or other occafions fhall be determined by a majority. The majority fhall

ſhall alſo determine the fate of miniſters and others whom it may be found neceſſary to remove.

ARTICLE VIII.

There ſhall be in this aſſociation a *general* and a *particular committee* ; the general committee ſhall conſiſt of all the members, and the particular committee of a certain number, to be choſen by a majority : the former ſhall meet once a week, the latter every night.

ARTICLE IX.

A ſolemn oath ſhall be pronounced, that at the firſt ſignal of deſtruction the lives of none, except our friends and thoſe who join our ſtandard, ſhall be ſpared.

Theſe articles being confirmed by oath, Antoinette and her counſellors employed themſelves in appropriating to all concerned in the plot the different parts they were to act. Particular attention was paid to ſecuring thoſe whoſe fidelity was in any degree ſuſpected. Meaſures were likewiſe taken to ſecure to themſelves the diſpoſal of the throne, and to this end it was neceſſary to plan the deſtruction of its heirs.

Breteuil had, with the interpoſition of the court, given up his place to the ambitious Brienne. The latter was aſſiſted in his iniquitous enterprizes by le Juignè, archbiſhop of Paris. About the ſame time Brienne was made a cardinal. This was a ſtriking proof of the complacency with which the Holy Father viewed the abominations of the court of France.---But to return to Juignè; he was eminent in nothing but a connoiſſeur in *champaigne* ; in every thing beſides he was ſtripped almoſt to idiocy. Necker, however, pretended to make grave ſpeculations with him on the diſaſters with which France was apparently threatened. Yet, in the end, this ſhameleſs apoſtate exhibited in his conduct an inconteſtible proof of his attachment to the views of Antoinette.

The

The Etats-Généraux were fortunately convoked at this time, and this circumſtance prevented the completion of the execrable deſign of the queen of France. It had been her intention and expectation to ſee the inhabitants of Paris maſſacred, and the city in flames at this time. The Tiers Etat, by their conduct, on the 22d of June, 1789, proved that they were capable of acting with firmneſs.

During this criſis Villeduel, one of the creatures of Antoinette, aroſe from an intendancy to the miniſtry. He had inſtilled into his party all the principles of the logic of Richelieu and Saint Florentine : he knew how to protect the one and deſtroy the other. He was particularly ſerviceable to our illuſtrious heroine, by fabricating and circulating calumnies, at which he had an unrivalled talent.

Part of the nation, ſeemingly plunged in a lethargic ſleep, was at this time inſenſible to the wounds of oppreſſion and faction. If they were felt by others, they were endured in painful ſilence, or lamented with ſecret ſighs ; for the voice of complaint was conſtantly puniſhed by new cruelties. Meantime Antoinette, in the intervals of relaxation from her criminal labors, repoſed on the boſom of pleaſures ſcarce leſs culpable.

She had not now for a long time viſited her new acquiſition, St. Cloud, and ſhe was inflamed with deſire to offer ſome ſacrifices to love within the walls of that voluptuous palace. To this end, ſhe made it a rendezvous for her aſſociates, and appointed aſſignations there with her more immediate favorites. Her beloved brother-in-law, and the Dacheſs de Polignac, were often joined in her aſſignations, and this illuſtrious trio, in theſe clandeſtine meetings, gave a-looſe to every wanton exceſs that their debauched minds could dictate.

Necker had often been tampered with, but he refuſed, with the firmneſs of a ſtoic, to come into the meaſures of Antoinette. For this reaſon the faction wiſhed him to be diſmiſſed from court ; but the king could not at that time be perſuaded to conſent to it.

Meantime

Meantime the faction, from day to day, increafed, and the fatal moment of execution was at hand. The only thing which retarded its arrival was the great confidence placed by the king in his minifter Necker. It was neceffary he fhould be deprived either of his office or his life ; and, in cafe the former could not be effected, it was determined to have recourfe to the latter.—Juignè, the archbifhop, one of the confederates, was confidered by Antoinette and her council as the properest perfon to be employed in this bufinefs, and fhe undertook to commiffion and inftruct him for the purpofe. To this end fhe fent for the ambitious prelate, and addreffed him in the manner following :—" Is it not, my dear friend, " unfortunate for us, that Necker, a man oppofed to all " our meafures, and inflexible to all perfuafion, fhould " continue in an office which gives fuch influence in the " ftate ? we think he ought to be removed ; this, how- " ever, we find difficult to be effected. But affift us " with your fervices. Religion has placed in your hands " arms which cannot fail of fuccefs. Make ufe of them " to crufh this hydra who awes the nation, and would " deftroy it. Avail yourfelf of that afcendency over the " king which his weaknefs has given you. You know " him well. He may eafily be deceived by that impofing " exterior which you wear to fuch advantage. Do this, " and we may expect every thing from your affiftance, " and you, on the other hand, may be fure of protection " and reward."

Being thus inftructed, the hypocritical prelate fought the king, and addreffed him in the following manner :— " Sire, art thou a king, and fuffereft irreligion to reign, " as it were, conjointly with thee ? It is an atheift who " gives laws to France, under the title of a moft Chriftian " King ! What dreadful confequences may we not ex- " pect from fuch iniquities ! Thinkeft thou that the " Being who inftituted religion will protect its enemies ? " Expect rather to fee the vengeance of the Moft High " poured out on yourfelf, your family and people. Be- " hold the image," continued he, prefenting a crucifix ;

"behold the image of your Saviour, who commands you "by my voice to profcribe Necker, that mifcreant who "feeks the deftruction of the nation, and injures the "caufe of our holy religion, by treating the minifters "thereof with contempt."

This infolent fpeech had the defired effect on Louis. Terrified with the menaces of the prieft, he feemed already to behold the pillars of heaven defcending to crufh him. Unable to refift the fears that overwhelmed him, he fent for the papers of Necker, and ordered him to retire from Paris in four and twenty hours.

At length arrived the evening when the bloody tragedy was to be executed, the evening of the 14th of July, 1789. The confederates were all prepared. The queen enjoyed the moft confident hopes of fuccefs, and anticipated the delights which fhe expected would refult from it. But, through fome imprudence of Lambifc, the plot took air, and the citizens of Paris were alarmed. The difappointment, confufion and terror which took poffeffion of the confpirators, when they learnt the Parifians had taken arms, cannot be defcribed. La Polignac, d'Artois, and feveral other members of the affociation, immediately betook themfelves to flight. The king repaired to the Hotel-de-ville, whither Antoinette was, in fact, pleafed to fee him go, although fhe affected to be much grieved at parting with him.

CHAPTER XIII.

A NEW conftitution was, foon after, eftablifhed by the people, and Antoinette, although fhe fecretly curfed the meafure, had the policy to be apparently pleafed, and to comply with the wifhes of the people. Her engagements in political matters, however, caufed no abatement in her fondnefs for riot, luxury and diffipation. She found means to folace herfelf even under the mortification

mortification of her greateſt diſappointments. Mothier and La Fayette were ſucceſſively the generals of the people. Antoinette found them both extremely uſeful in affording an alleviation to the burthen of her griefs; and each of them performed the charitable taſk of giving conſolation to this diſtreſſed lady.

One day, as Antoinette and La Fayette were conſulting on meaſures to re-eſtabliſh her in the opinion of the public, they wandered into the *Boſquet de Saint-Cloud.* Warmed by the charms which the queen expoſed to his view, and emboldened by his political conſequence, the marquis preſumed to make her ſome propoſals of a tender nature. She recollected how much ſhe owed to Fayette, and ſhe was too juſt to prove ungrateful. He, in ſhort, found her as condeſcending as he could expect, and was proceeding to the conſummation of his wiſhes, when they were moſt unſeaſonably interrupted by a page, who had attended them on the walk, and now came to preſent the queen a neſt of beautiful young birds, which he had juſt found in the grove at ſome diſtance from the happy ſcene. His arrival, as may be eaſily imagined, was not very pleaſing to either of the lovers, and he was ordered, with ſome ſeverity, to retire immediately. This command was inſtantly obeyed, and the ſcene ſoon became too tender for deſcription.

CHAPTER XIV.

ALL the enormous dilapidations of Antoinette, her innumerable amorous intrigues, her vices, her haughtineſs, and barbarity, all theſe obtained the pardon of the French nation. In ſpite of the diſtreſſed ſituation to which they had been reduced by the ſhameful irregularities and inhuman plots of their queen, a queen who no longer deſerved the title, ſhe was yet ſuffered to live unpuniſhed. But the generoſity of her people could

make no impreſſion on her unfeeling heart. A ſtranger to every good, to every grateful ſentiment, ſhe was unable to arreſt herſelf in that headlong career of vice with which ſhe had ſet out in life, even when ſhe found herſelf ready to plunge into the golph of ruin, which ſhe had prepared for her ſubjects. The commiſſion of every ſpecies of crimes was ſo incorporated with her conſtitution, that ſhe neither knew compunction, nor was capable of repentance; and ſhe perſevered in guilt till the eyes of her people were forced open. Such became the publicity of her vices, and ſo conſpicuous was the bitterneſs of her enmity to the nation to which ſhe ought to have performed the part of a parent and protectreſs, that longer ſubmiſſion to ſo vile a ſovereign would have for-ever characteriſed France as the moſt abject and deſpicable of nations.

After the revolution, the deſpotic club, of which Marie Antoinette was chief, did not entirely neglect their operation: the members of which it was compoſed continued to draw from her a contagion of ſentiment, which was induſtriouſly ſpread, and poiſoned many.

To what period, unhappy people, do you procraſtinate the day of your tranquillity? How long will you ſuffer men, or rather demons, who, while they ſtyle themſelves the fathers of their country, aim the poniard of death at its boſom, to enter your councils and legiſlatures? How long ſhall a Mauri, a Caſalès, a Duval, inſult your weakneſs, or rather your negligence, with impunity? How long will ye continue blind in the choice of your leaders, and gild the ſhoulders of thoſe whoſe hearts are rotten? How long will you ſuffer yourſelves to be made beaſts of burthen by the dregs of your former government, who wait but for a favourable opportunity to tear in pieces the hand that reaches to them the bread of nouriſhment, or leads them to the heights of preferment and office. Imitate the ſtatuary, who at his pleaſure breaks the idol which he made. But in breaking yours, let it be ſo done that the ſcattered pieces ſhall never become re-united.

One of thoſe writers, who, through fear, or affected modeſty,

modeſty, pretends to the greateſt impartiality, ſpeaks of Antoinette in the following manner :---

" I ſhall ſay but little of Marie Antoinette. Once, " perhaps, too much adored, and now too much calum- " niated, ſhe appears neither to merit the extravagant " eulogiums which have been laviſhed on the *Dauphine,** " nor the atrocious imputations which have been heaped " on the queen. This muſt, however, be left for poſter- " ity to determine ; I ſhall not examine particularly into " her attachment to a brother, to which, perhaps, may " be owing ſome part of the preſent exhauſted ſtate of " our finances, and the new ſacrifices which have been " made by France to the houſe of Auſtria. I ſhall only " ſay, that it is extremely difficult, not to ſay impoſſi- " ble, entirely to diveſt ourſelves of every ſentiment of " tenderneſs for the country where we are born ; for the " parents who have careſſed, protected and nouriſhed us " in our helpleſs infancy ; and for thoſe who have earlieſt " awakened in our boſoms thoſe ſoft affections which " conſtitute the happineſs of mankind. It is difficult to " forget the tender connexions of daughter, of ſiſter, of " parent, and even thoſe who only owe their birth to the " ſame ſoil ; and it ſeems, that were it practicable, it " would do no honor to the ſoul capable of doing it. " What then can be done to eſcape the dangers to which " a ſtate is expoſed by the marriage of its monarch to a " foreign queen ? Let him chuſe a wife from his own " nation. Such an alliance may at firſt appear unwor- " thy the blood royal, for there being but one ſovereign, " he muſt marry a ſubject. But now that the king is " no more than the firſt citizen, he cannot diſhonor him- " ſelf by giving his hand and his heart to a free citizen, " who by her virtues and accompliſhments merited the " love of her nation. This would undoubtedly excite " the ambition of the family from which the queen " might be choſen. This to be ſure is an evil, but far " from being equal to thoſe we have always ſuffered from

" alliances

* She was dauphine before ſhe was queen.

" alliances with foreign families. In the former case, it " is easy to resist the machinations of a single family; " but in the latter, we must combat with empires.

" The one sometimes gives occasions to domestic quar-" rels; the other frequently to wars, and almost always " to very ruinous sacrifices. In the former case, the " national assembly should confine the ambition of the " family preferred: in the latter, the influence of a " queen, whose heart is inimical to the nation, must al-" ways prove active and dangerous. I have thought it " might be useful to render this idea public. It is at " least important enough to merit discussions.*

" Of Marie Antoinette I shall say nothing——." It is thus our impartial writer sets of.—As for me, I shall say all that ought to be said. I shall say, that the shocks given to our empire by its earliest sovereigns were less violent than those it has received from its more cruel enemy, Marie Antoinette. I shall say, that it was by her hand that M. de Vergennes died empoisoned. It was she who always aimed at the destruction of France, that, on its ruins, she might enjoy the barbarous satisfaction of seeing her brother's empire enlarged. It was she who forced the count d'Artois to become the assassin of his brother, after having been the defiler of his bed. I shall say, that thousands have been subservient to her pleasures, and have almost all of them been afterwards sacrificed by her own hand. It was she, who during their nocturnal orgies, blew up in their hearts the flame of civil war. It was she, who, laying aside her aversion to the national habit, did not blush to grant her favors to general Mothier, in order to concert with him her schemes of vengeance. It was through her influence that the assassin Bouillé was named to the expedition of Nancy. It was she who cried, at the instant she contemplated the innumerable victims of her barbarity, " Why have not twenty-three millions suffered the " same

* At the time these observations were made, France was under the government of a limited monarchy.

"same fate, that this odious nation might be extirpated "from the face of the earth?" Her own hand armed the chevaliers of the poniard. By her hand was prepared the poison with which Mirabeau died. Her murderous insinuations inhumanized the heart of her husband—a weak prince, but naturally good. It was by her pernicious counsels that the nuisance of the Chapelle was projected. In short, all our intestine quarrels, the invasions which are preparing on all sides, and in one word, all our calamities, past, present, and to come, derive their origin from the unrighteous hand of Antoinette.

"It is," continues our impartialist, "for posterity to judge."—Was it then for posterity to pronounce the fate of Mandrin, Cartouch, and la Lescombat, whose crimes are the crimes of infancy compared with those of our heroine? Let us, in this place, quote a trifling adage which proves the veracity of the people, as much as it paints their weakness. "Little villains are punished, "while great ones are respected."—Let us follow this writer a little further—"I shall not inquire whether "some part of the present exhausted situation of our "finances be not owing," &c. He will not inquire whether those immense quantities of gold and silver which have been transmitted to the same brother, have contributed to exhaust our finances! In the name of common sense, if this be not worthy of inquiry, what is!

Pursuing our impartial author a little further, we find, that in conformity with his opinion, a woman ought to sacrifice to paternal affection, even the duties of wife and mother! This is similar to the logic of our higher clergy, who see nothing sacred in the Holy Evangelists when they correspond not with their own inclinations. Yet an apostle, when speaking of the duties of the marriage state, has formally declared, "A man shall forsake "his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife." And have women received a dispensation from what was prescribed to men? In order to favour the ambitious designs of her own paternal family, shall a woman, with impunity, contrive the destruction of her houshold, and

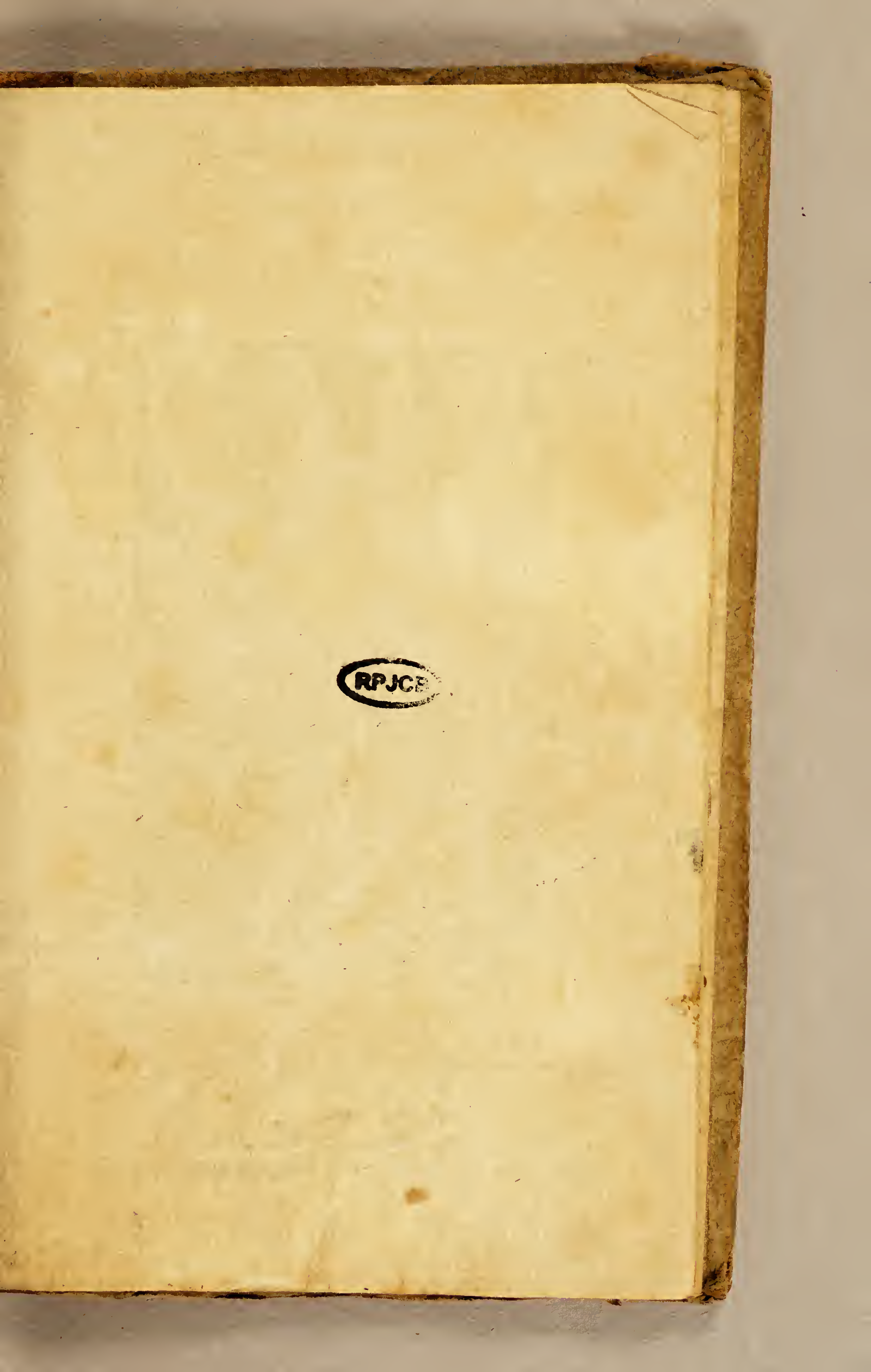
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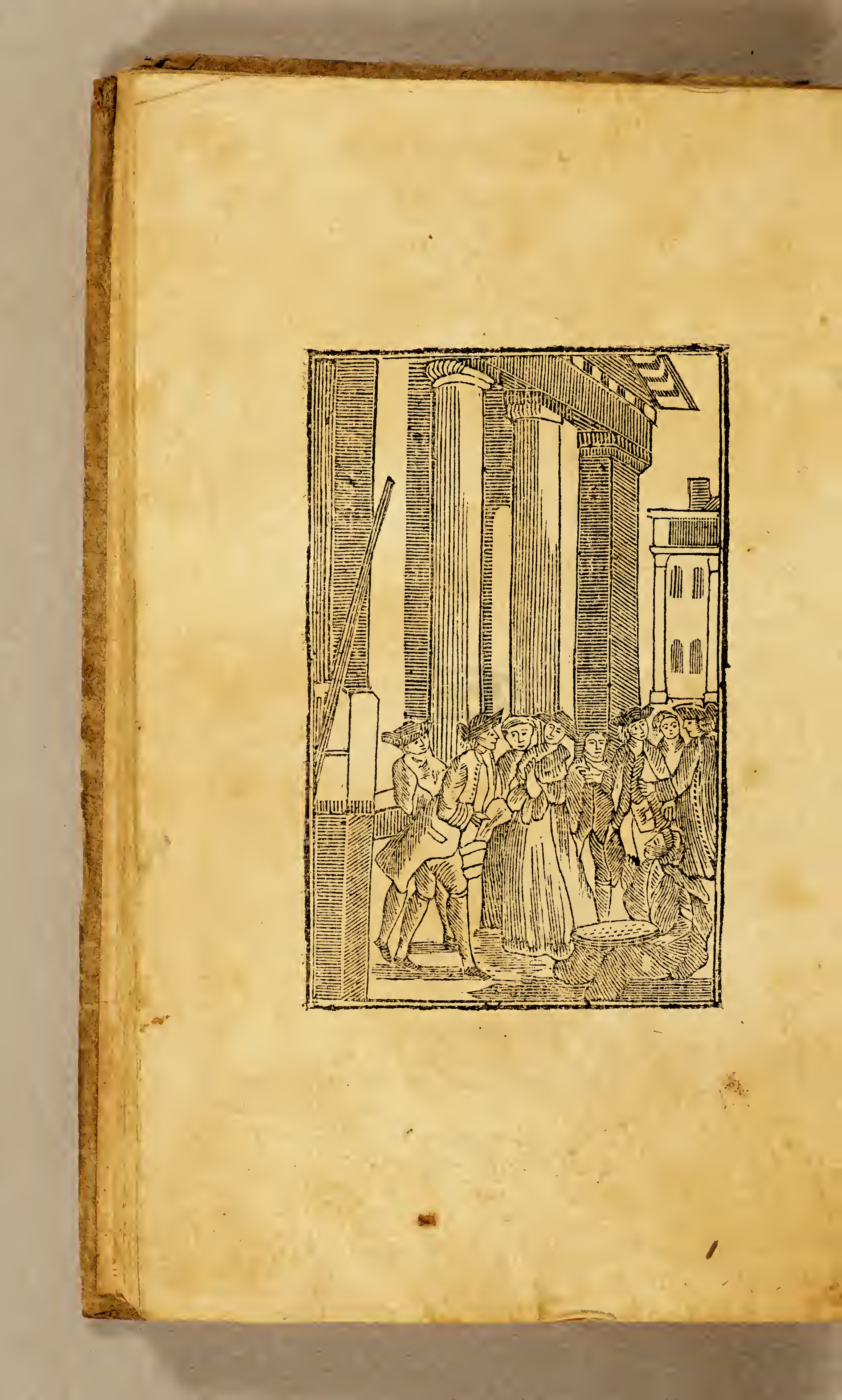
those about her? Shall she, without being cited to the tribunal of public opinion, betray her husband, and devote her children to ruin? No; even the woman in private life, who is capable of such conduct, is a monster of iniquity; and the *queen*, who hesitates not to soil the majesty of a throne, to prostitute her own person, and plot the destruction of twenty-three millions of people, is ten thousand times more criminal, and deserves to be extirpated from that society whose ruin she contemplated. It is undoubtedly highly proper, that the first magistrate of a free people chuse his wife from among his fellow citizens.

Even now, while I write, there are commotions in every section of the capital. Every soldier is flying to his arms. And why? I demand the reason why? It is because General Bleuit solicits a dismission? And why does he solicit a dismission from a place in which his self-love is so amply gratified? It is because the people had the insolence to oppose the departure of the king for St. Cloud, who from thence might have gone elsewhere. As the appetite sometimes increases by eating, the desire of travelling may redouble with the sight of different places. The people had then the insolence to despise the orders of a general they had chosen, and the same people now present themselves in a body, at his hotel, to beg he will have the goodness to continue to abuse them. Perhaps this request, however, may be intended only to detain him in office till the new constitution be fully established.

Here are bounded the principal events of the life of our heroine. Vigilant for the information of our fellow citizens, we assure them that nothing of importance in the future life of Antoinette shall escape our observation, and so soon as we shall be furnished with sufficient matter, we will communicate it to them in another volume.

THE END.


RPJCB



TRIAL,

WITH THE

ACCUSATIONS AND INTERROGATORIES

OF

MARIE ANTOINETTE, *of Auſtria*,

CIDEVANT

QUEEN OF FRANCE.

BEING interrogated as to her names, ſurnames, age, quality, place of birth and abode, anſwered, " That her name is *Marie Antoinette Lorraine*, of Auſtria, " aged about thirty-eight years, widow of the king of " France, born at Vienna, finding herſelf at the time of " her arreſt in the place of the ſitting of the National " Aſſembly."

The Greffier read the act of accuſation; which, among other things, ſtated, " That by a decree of the Conven- " tion, of the 1ſt of Auguſt laſt, Marie Antoinette, " widow of Louis Capet, has been brought before the " Revolutionary Tribunal, as accuſed of conſpiring " againſt France:—That an examination being made " of all the pieces tranſmitted by the public accuſer, it " appears that ſhe had acted like Meſſaline, Brunchaut, " Fredigonde, and Medicis, who were formerly *qualified* " *with the titles* of queens of France, whoſe names have " ever been odious, and will never be effaced from the " page of hiſtory.

" Marie Antoinette, widow of Louis Capet, has, ſince " her abode in France, been the *ſcourge and the blood-* " *ſucker* of the French; that even before the *happy* Rev- " olution which gave the French people their ſovereignty, " ſhe had political correſpondence with *a man called* the " King of Bohemia and Hungary; that this correſpon- " dence

" dence was contrary to the interefts of France ; that " not content with acting in concert with the brothers " of Louis Capet, and the infamous and execrable " Calonne, at that time minifter of the finances ; with " having fquandered the finances of France (the fruit of " the fweat of the people) in a dreadful manner, to fa- " tisfy inordinate pleafures, and to pay the agents of her " *criminal intrigues ;* it is notorious that fhe has at diffe- " rent times trafmitted millions to the Emperor, which " ferved him, and ftill fupports him to fuftain a war " againft the Republic, and that it is by fuch exceffive " plunder that fhe has at length exhaufted the national " treafury.

" That fince the Revolution, the widow Capet has " not for a moment withheld criminal intelligence and " correfpondence with foreign powers ; and in the inte- " rior of the Republic, by agents devoted to her, whom " fhe fubfidized and caufed to be paid out of the trea- " fury of the *cidevant* civil lift ; that at various epochs " fhe has employed every manœuvre that fhe thought " confiftent with her perfidious views to bring about a " counter-revolution ; firft, having, under a pretext of " a neceffary re-union between the *cidevant* Gardes-du- " corps, and the officers and foldiers of the regiment of " Flanders, contrived a repaft between thefe two corps " on the 1ft of October 1789, which degenerated into " an abfolute orgy as fhe defired, and during the courfe " of which, the agents of the widow Capet perfectly " feconded her counter-revolutionary projects ; brought " the greater part of the guefts, in the moment of ine- " briety, to fing fongs expreffive of their moft entire de- " votion to the Throne, and the moft marked averfion " for the people : of having excited them *infenfibly* to " wear the white cockade, and to tread the national " cockade under foot ; and of having authorifed, by her " prefence, all the counter-revolutionary exceffes, partic- " ularly in encouraging the women who accompanied " her, to diftribute thefe white cockades among the " guefts ; and having, on the 14th of the fame month,

" teftified

"testified the most immoderate joy at what passed dur-
"ing these orgies.

"Secondly, having, in concert with Louis Capet, di-
"rected to be distributed very plentifully throughout
"the kingdom, publications of a counter-revolutionary
"nature, some of which were pretended to have been
"published by the conspirators on the other side of the
"Rhine, (meaning, we suppose, at Coblentz) such as—
"*Petitions to the emigrants—reply of the emigrants—the*
"*emigrants to the people—the shortest follies are the best—*
"*the order of march, the return of the emigrants*, and other
"such writings: of having even carried her perfidy and
"dissimulation to such a height, as to have circulated
"writings in which she herself is described in very un-
"favorable colours, in order to cloak the imposture;
"thereby to make it be believed by foreign powers that
"she was extremely ill treated by Frenchmen, to insti-
"gate them to go to war with France."

The different charges ran to a prodigious length. The following is a short abstract of the charges on which the trial turned:

"*Marie Antoinette* was further accused, that being
"brought to Paris, she immediately began to intrigue
"with the members of the legislature—and held night-
"ly meetings with them.

"That she was accessary in getting bad ministers ap-
"pointed, in order that her views might be assisted;—
"that her creatures were placed in all the public offices;
"men who were known to be conspirators against liberty;
"that she was accessary in bribing the members of the
"Legislative Assembly to declare war against the Em-
"peror, her brother;—that she gave intelligence to the
"enemy of the plans of the campaign, as soon as they
"were determined by the council; which was the cause
"of many failures which the French arms experien-
"ced—that she combined with her agents in plotting
"the overthrow of the constitution on the 10th day of
"August, 1792;—that on the 9th of the same month,
"she got a number of Swiss guards into the Thuille-

"ries,

" ries, encouraged them to make cartouches, and ani-
" mated Louis Capet to order his ſoldiers to fire ;—that
" the next day, the 10th of Auguſt, ſhe preſſed and ſo-
" licited Louis Capet to go to the Thuilleries at five in
" the morning, to review the *real* Swiſs guards and thoſe
" who had aſſumed their uniform ; and at his return ſhe
" preſented him with a piſtol, ſaying, '*This is the moment* TO SHOW YOURSELF ;' and on his refuſing ſhe called
" him a coward ;—that, finally, the civil war which now
" rages in France, has been produced by her intrigues."

The queen confeſſed in her interrogatory, that it was ſhe who opened and locked the door of the apartment through which the family made their eſcape in June, 1791; that independent of the confeſſion of the widow Capet in this reſpect, it is confirmed, by the teſtimony of *Louis Charles Capet*, and by his ſiſter, that *de la Fayette* favored all the deſigns of the widow Capet, in the ſame manner as *Bailly* did while he was Mayor of Paris, and that both were preſent when the fugitives eſcaped, and favored their flight as much as lay in their power.

This Princeſs ſuffered under the axe of the guillotine, on Wedneſday, the 16th of October, 1793, old ſtile, after having been condemned by the Revolutionary Tribunal, *as guilty of having been acceſſary to, and having co-operated in different manœuvres againſt the liberty of France ; of having entertained a correſpondence with the enemies of the Republic ; of having participated in a plot tending to kindle civil wars in the interior of the Republic, by arming citizens againſt each other.*

The execution took place at a quarter paſt twelve, P. M. The whole armed force in Paris was on foot, from the priſon of the Conciergerie to the Place de la Revolution, beyond the garden of the Thuilleries. The ſtreets were lined by two very cloſe rows of armed citizens. Henriot, the commander in chief, attended the queen in a private coach, with a guard of cavalry, to the place of execution. She was accompanied by the cidevant curate of St. Laudry, a conſtitutional prieſt ; and on the ſcaffold preſerved her natural dignity of mind.

NOTE.

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A DESCRIPTION of the *guillotine*, or fatal machine, by which the late king and queen of France suffered, and which takes its name from the person who brought it into use, has been industriously handed the public, both through British and American papers, with an apparent intention of heightening the horror of the act; but, *note well*, the origin of the construction of it, and the intention of the machine by the original projectors, have been as industriously concealed. It is with pleasure, by the help of a patriotic correspondent (and *to vindicate the ways of God to man)* that we undeceive the public with respect to this novel piece of mechanism, by asserting, from good authority, that the guillotine was constructed by the aristocrats at Paris; that the king and queen inspected it with pleasure; and that it was intended to be used by the redoubtable duke of Brunswick, (the valiant brother of George the IIId.) in the beheading of all the convention of France, and others who should not have been murdered by the sword, and other means of assassination, of the host who should oppose his all-conquering manifesto.—What a change is here! Louis and Marie Antoinette dug a pit for tens of thousands; and by the direction, no doubt, of the unerring hand of God, they themselves fell into it! Where, reader, is your horror now! Change it into the other scale, cries the still voice of conscience—turn your face from monarchs—support *the rights of man*!

FINIS.

